1079

MATRIMONY.

A NOVEL.

Lane, Darling, and Co. Leadenhall-Street.

1077

MATRIMONY,

THE HEIGHT OF BLISS, OR THE EXTREME OF MISERY.

A Novel.

IN FOUR VOLUMES.

BY

MRS. MEEKE,

AUTHOR OF "THERE IS A SECRET," FIND IT OUT!
OLD WIFE AND YOUNG HUSBAND, &c.

Thrice happy they in pure delights,
Whom love with mutual bond unites:
Unbroken by complaints or strife,
E'en to the latest hours of life.

FRANCIS.

VOL. I.

LONDON:
PRINTED AT THE
Minerva-Press,
FOR A. K. NEWMAN AND CO.
LEADENHALL-STREET.
1812.

1077

Serfojee Rajah 1827

MATRIMONY.

THE TANJORE MAHARAJA SERFOGI'S SARASWATI MAHAL.

CHAP. I.

AMONG the officers who returned from Spain, after the memorable battle of Corunna, were two young men, whom various circumstances, which had arisen during that unfortunate campaign, had strictly united in the bonds of friendship, notwithstanding they had been absolute strangers to each other, previous to their meeting in the Peninsula. But during the retreat of the British, as they were both in the cavalry, though not in the same regiment, they were often engaged in very serious skir-

mishes with the enemy, which afforded them each an opportunity of evincing their determined bravery and zeal in their country's cause; and during their last brush with the enemy, the earl of Angus, the younger of the two, prevented the other from being made prisoner, by hastening to his rescue, and with a small, but brave band, beating off the hussars, by whom he was surrounded. This Lionel Melbourne, the rescued hero, who, from that moment, attached himself particularly to his kind preserver, amply repaid before Corunna, when lord Angus, from excess of zeal, upon hearing his lamented general exclaim —"Well done, my brave dragoons!" must have fallen a sacrifice to his anxious wish to signalize himself, had not Lionel, who saw his horse fall lifeless under him, rushed to his assistance, and warded off a blow, that might have proved fatal to the young soldier, who now saw his enemy laid prostrate at his feet by his recently-acquired friend. At the moment, a mere look, which

which spoke volumes, was all that passed; and as they were among the first who embarked, most of the cavalry having done so previous to the battle, they did not find time to exchange more than a few words previous to their so doing, when each promised themselves much pleaure, by renewing an acquaintance, began among such dangers, in England.

Chance, or their better genius, had, however, ordained that they should be passengers in the same transport; and while they are sailing homeward, we will enter into a few details respecting lord Angus, who was, strange as it may appear, only the second son of the earl of Monmouth, being indebted for his title to his maternal grandfather, the marquis of Inverness, whose only daughter, lady Frances Bolinbroke, had, at an early age, been led to the altar by the earl, with his full approbation; and at his death, the second title of her family devolved upon her eldest and only son, the young officer already introduced to our

 readers,

readers, in whose favour, at some future time, it was supposed that the marquisate, which had become extinct upon the death of lord Inverness, would be revived.

The earl of Monmouth had not in his youth entertained any expectation of succeeding to the honours of his family, as he was only the second son of the honourable Mr. Clairville, second brother to then earl of Monmouth, who, having been brought forward early in life in the diplomatic line, had some interest, which he very prudently resolved to exert in favour of his sons.

The eldest he sent to India, under the auspices of a gentleman who was going to fill a station at Madras, to which was annexed great honour and great emolument, and who promised to bring Henry Clairville forward in the same line of life. The youngest, having been educated at Winchester, was from thence removed to Cambridge, where he studied jurisprudence, as his father meant to bring him up for the bar, if he promised to become a good ora-

tor;

tor; if not, he was to content himself with being what is termed a chamber counsellor; but his great natural abilities, and elegant flow of language, even in common conversation, led his father to hope he should see him upon the woolsack before he died; and as a preliminary step, placed him, when he left college, under the tuition of one of the most eminent and celebrated counsellors of the day, who had chambers in the Temple.

This gentleman soon became very much attached to his pupil, and often prognosticated that he would attain the highest honours annexed to his profession, before he died; and certainly Cecil Clairville studied hard to verify his prognostics: though Coke and Lyttleton are not the most amusing authors that ever set pen to paper, still they must be reckoned among the most useful to the gentlemen of the long robe.

To a very superior understanding, the young student added a most elegant figure, and a very fine countenance; his manners,

from having early mixed in the first circles, were highly polished; and his innate vivacity rendered him a most pleasing companion, and much sought after by the young and gay of his own sex: but Cecil knew that he must make his own way in the world, as he had little, except good advice, to expect from his father; though he knew that his interest, if exerted in his behalf, might be of great use to him; but as he had but little money to devote to his pleasures, pride induced him to make his increasing taste for study an excuse for avoiding all expensive pursuits and companions. When once called to the bar, and in a likely way to increase his present very small income, he resolved to indemnify himself for his present privations; but wisely forbore, as yet, to vie with those, his equals in point of birth, who were greater favourites of Fortune.

Mr. Clairville, senior, was extremely gratified by his conduct; and was, in consequence, induced to increase his allow-

ance, and even to request that he would devote more time to society; the mind required relaxation, he told him, and suavity of manners, which could only be preserved by a constant intercourse with the world, were as necessary for a lawyer, as profound knowledge. Cecil agreed to the truth of his remarks; and by way of evincing his adherence to his advice, he readily accepted a ticket for the Easter ball at the Mansion-House, which his patron, the counsellor, whose brother-in-law then filled the civic chair, offered him, promising to introduce him to some of the rich city belles for a partner, observing—"That a rich wife would not impede his advancement in life." But Cecil was still in the age of romance, having but just entered his one-and-twentieth year; and though he prudently avoided all expensive pleasures, and was even frugal in his general habits, he was resolved that love should preside at his wedding, as he often thought that an amiable woman, and a pleasant do-

mestic circle, must cheer the mind under every difficulty.

Thus prepossessed, he entered the Mansion-House; and having been introduced by his protector to the lord and lady mayoress, and gone down one dance with a niece of theirs, who had certainly a large fortune, but little else to recommend her to any man, he requested the counsellor would introduce him to a very beautiful girl about eighteen, to whom his partner had often spoken while displaying her graces.

"She is forbidden goods, Cecil," rejoined his friend; "her father, who is now one of the richest bankers in London, will not consent to her marrying any untitled man—he has risen very rapidly in the world by his own merit, he would say; but there are people who think he has been more indebted to chance, than to any talents of his own; be that as it may, I know he is resolved to ennoble his family through the medium of his daughter, who, report

says,

says, is highly accomplished; therefore let me advise you not to seek her acquaintance."

Now had Mr. Davenport studied how to increase Cecil's anxiety to be introduced to this fair daughter of Eve, he could not have succeeded more effectually, though he protested he had not the presumption to aspire to more than being her partner during one dance; which satisfying his friend, he requested his sister, the lady president of the festive revels, to introduce Cecil to Miss Manby. She did so very readily, styling him the son of the honourable Mr. Clairville, and nephew to the earl of Monmouth. Helen Manby had previously remarked him, and not having inherited her father's ambition, she was as well pleased at dancing with an earl's nephew, as if this same elegant young man had been his lordship's only son. Mr. Manby, not presuming a young man of such slight pretensions could hope to captivate his darling Helen, took care to tell all those around

him, that the young man she was dancing with was nephew to an earl, and that his father had been abroad in a political capacity, and would, doubtless, push his son's fortune.

"Then he would be no bad match for some of our citizen's daughters," rejoined an alderman, to whom these speeches were in part addressed, "since his connexions would give his wife consequence, and her fortune would add greatly to his."

"And pray what man of fortune, that was in his senses," retorted Manby, "would consent to his daughter marrying such a quality beggar? my daughter should not even marry a poor peer—the world shall not have it to say I bought her a title; and yet I do expect to see her a countess, if not a marchioness, before I die." This he so often repeated to his friends, and was so fond of boasting of the fortune that he should give her, if she married to please him, that some elderly citizens, who knew he had risen from a very small beginning,

 and

and that he was a man of no family, would not have been sorry had his vain boasting met with a serious check.

Never had an evening passed more rapidly in Cecil's calculation of time; and when he retired to rest, (he resided with the counsellor in King's-Bench Walks), he dreamt of Helen Manby; and awoke, convinced that he should be the most miserable of men, except he was fortunate enough to obtain her heart in exchange for his own, which had escaped through his eyes. Possibly his having hitherto lived so retired had rather encouraged the strong spice of romance which Nature had implanted in his bosom; and he fancied that Helen Manby was exactly the woman to render his hours of retirement more blissful moments; not that he ever dared flatter himself the rich banker would consent to his becoming his son-in-law; but if he could but win the fair Helen's heart, he did not despair of inducing her to consent to a private marriage; of course,

 her

her father would forgive the imprudence of an only child. Thus he should consult his interest, as well as his happiness, by attaching himself to this lovely girl: but as he had never been introduced to her mother, and had received no invitation from the banker, where was he to see her again? She might visit at the Mansion-House; but he might never be invited to meet her: at all events, he resolved to cultivate every person's acquaintance who were at all connected with the city; and as Love is known to be a most ingenious deity, he soon favoured our lover's views. He met the fair Helen in the coffee-room at the opera, and without her father. It may be supposed he made the most of the opportunity. This interview led to the information of where he might meet her again; and as they had soon many things daily to impart to each other, a favourite maid of Helen's became her confidant, and their letters passed safely through her hands; till, unable any longer to live asunder,

(they

(they had been acquainted more than six weeks), Helen was easily prevailed upon to set out for the land of matrimony, and to unite her fate with that of her lover.

No one entertained the slightest suspicion of their intentions. Mr. Davenport readily consented to his young friend's paying his uncle, the earl, a short visit in the country; and Helen seized the opportunity of her father being to sleep at a friend's house twenty miles from town, to take flight from the paternal mansion; and as her mother did not discover her departure till late the next morning, she could only grieve and lament till the banker's return, when it would have been absurd to have attempted to pursue the fugitives. Indeed his rage was for some hours ungovernable; and every soul who had been at all accessary to his daughter forming an acquaintance with Cecil Clairville, were included in his execrations. They were all in a league against him, he felt convinced, but he would disappoint them all; the ungrateful

ungrateful girl might starve upon a dung-hill, for what he cared—not a farthing of his money should ever fall to her share—no, he would be revenged upon the young beggarly scoundrel, whom he never would acknowledge as a relative—he should never darken his doors; and if his ungrateful daughter fell at his feet to sue for pardon, he would spurn her from him, and consider her henceforth as an alien to his blood; nay, he even threatened, in his first paroxysm of fury, to turn his wife out of doors, if she ever admitted his daughter during his absence; nay, if she ever visited her at her own home, his doors should be shut against her when she returned.

Mr. Clairville and Mr. Davenport soon learnt whither Cecil had bent his steps. The first of those gentlemen rather hoped his son had taken a wise, though, perhaps, a rash step; but the latter soon undeceived him in that respect, as he assured him he feared Cecil had rather marred than made his fortune, as he knew the banker, who

was

was a very narrow-minded man, and who had received a very confined education, would be very obstinate; and if he did not relent, the young couple must indeed live upon love, till Cecil had made his way at the bar.

Mr. Clairville loved his son; and he resolved to straiten himself, rather than see him disgrace the family from whence he sprung; he therefore received the bride and bridegroom into his house when they returned, observing that it was useless to reproach them for what could no longer be prevented, and promised to apply in their behalf to the enraged banker; but his kind intentions proved of no avail; nor was Mr. Davenport, or his brother-in-law, more successful. Mr. Manby only retorted upon them with various old saws, such as, "as she had brewed, so might she bake," &c. &c. she and her quality husband might live upon love, for what he cared, or go to his parish, if he had one—he had made up his mind, and not one penny would he ad-

vance

vance to encourage such disobedient children; and as he was well known never to go from his word, the friends of the youthful pair ceased to intercede for them, hoping that time, or the birth of a grandchild, might soften his heart. Cecil resolved to study harder than ever; and his wife, if she did not enjoy absolute luxuries, did not want for comfort under his father's roof.

They had been married about two months, when Cecil received an anonymous letter, which he was desired to commit to the flames as soon as he had read it, by which he learnt, that by her maternal grandfather's will, his wife was intitled to ten thousand pounds on her wedding-day, or upon her becoming of age, and to twenty thousand more upon her mother's death. He immediately communicated the intelligence to Mr. Davenport, who advised him to examine the will in question, and if the letter stated facts, to apply immediately to the banker for the money, as the interest

interest of such a sum would enable him and Mrs. Clairville to live very comfortably, independent of his father's kindness, since, should they obtain possession of this money, they might henceforth keep house jointly with Mr. Clairville, with whom he should advise their continuing to reside.

Cecil proceeded early next morning to the Commons, and having perused the will in question, he found that his anonymous correspondent, whom both he and Mrs. Clairville suspected to have been instructed by her mother, had not deceived him; and he felt the more rejoiced at thus having it in his power to make a very handsome provision for his wife, independent of her father, as he soon resolved to settle every farthing upon her and her children. This Mr. Davenport, as the friend of both parties, wrote the banker, without giving him to understand who had let the young couple know of the late Mr. Bendham's munificence. Mr. Manby was well aware that such a demand might be made upon him;

and

and it might have been supposed that Mr. Clairville's generous resolution to settle the whole upon his daughter would have softened him in his favour; but it had not the desired effect; nor did he even mention the application to his wife, contenting himself with writing three lines to Mr. Davenport, to inform him—" That till he had been convinced of his mistake by his late letter, he had not supposed that his daughter would have claimed her grandfather's bequest till she became of age; but as he had found his statement correct, he inclosed a draft upon his house for the money; and desired Mr. Davenport would send him, by his lawyer, the bearer of his letter, a proper discharge," taking no notice of Cecil Clairville's offers to settle the money as he thought best, appearing to consider him beneath his notice.

Cecil was not, however, of a character to take advantage of the banker's continued anger; he settled the money upon his wife, making his father and Mr. Davenport

port her trustees; and certainly they might have proved a very happy couple, had not Mrs. Clairville too often regretted having married merely for love, as she found, like many more romantic young ladies, that love in a cottage is more agreeable in theory than in practice; and though Mr. Clairville, senior, was very kind to her, and she had the free use of his carriage, and the command of his small household, it was not like having a house of her own, and a suite of servants to minister to her wants; besides, Cecil was necessarily obliged to devote much of his time to his profession; and she was very unwell during her pregnancy. Air and exercise having been strongly recommended to her by one of the first medical men in London, she removed, by her husband's desire, to Walworth, where he spent every moment he could spare, and her father-in-law's carriage always conveyed her to and from town; but she complained of being dull, and declared she should die of the vapours, if she continued

nued the inmate of a lodging-house in such a situation: she therefore returned to town, very contrary to the advice of her medical attendant; and as she continued to repine, and to weary both her husband and his friends, by fretting whenever he was absent, and by upbraiding him when he was with her for not having a greater regard for a woman who had displayed so much love for him, he was certainly much less shocked when it pleased God to call her away, as she died during the second week after she had lain in of a fine boy, having been married only eleven months and one day.

The young widower, though not absolutely inconsolable, displayed great feeling upon the occasion; and resolved to evince his sincere regard for her memory, by paying the greatest attention to her son, a fine healthy child, who bid fair to attain a good old age, said the nurse who attended his mother.

Mrs. Clairville was sent down to the family-

family-vault, in the parish church adjoining Clairville-place, the principal seat of the Monmouth family; and as every proper respect was paid her remains, (all the Monmouth family wore mourning upon the occasion) the banker could not indulge his spleen, as he had hoped and expected; though he *kindly* declared that he presumed the young lawyer had early taught her repentance; and severely chid his wife for grieving for so disobedient a child; she had been properly punished for her folly; and it was merely in compliance with custom, he said, that he put on mourning; he supposed the child would not long survive her; and that the young fortune-hunter of a widower would soon look out for some other foolish girl, whom he would get rid of as speedily as he had done of his daughter. Thus did he display his dislike of Cecil Clairville, who moved in so different a circle. These kind speeches were never repeated to him, and he had long so thoroughly despised the speaker, that it would not have

given

given him a moment's concern, even had he heard them.

Mrs. Manby, who was a sensible well-educated woman, had never participated in her husband's resentment; she had often endeavoured to prevent his spoiling his daughter's temper, by the most mistaken indulgence, being well aware that they might not agree in their ideas respecting matrimony, and that, unaccustomed as she was to parental controul, she might not submit very tamely to marry a man of his choosing. What she had long dreaded, and almost foreseen, did come to pass; and Mr. Manby carried his resentment even further than she had expected, as he seemed to rejoice in the death of a daughter, whom not a twelvemonth before he had absolutely idolized; but feeling very anxious respecting the infant boy she had left behind her, she ventured to propose to her unrelenting husband to take it under their care—" It could not have offended him," she observed; and Mr. Clairville was so young,

young, he might be induced to entrust it, at least during its infancy, to their care.

"The d-v-l doubt him," was the polite reply; "but I will have nothing to do with the brat: was I to interfere about him, the next thing his cunning father would expect would be, that I should make him my heir—no, no, pray let him provide for the boy; if he has settled his mother's fortune upon him, he will be a richer man than his father in the end. I shall found an hospital with my money, or dispose of it in some way for the good of my country, that my name may be handed down to posterity, as Gresham's, Barnard's, and Beckford's have been." So saying, he left Mrs. Manby to deplore his obstinacy, and absolute want of feeling, towards the infant child of his only daughter.

CHAP. II.

Mr. Clairville, who conceived he had paid the banker every necessary compliment, and who had felt shocked at the indifference he had evinced when informed of his death, which had been too sudden, though not absolutely unexpected, to admit of his being apprized in time of her approaching dissolution, now placed his son out to nurse with a person who resided at Peckham, and who had been very strongly recommended to him by the medical gentleman who had attended his wife, having prudently resolved to resume his situation in Mr. Davenport's office, and to prosecute his studies with increasing diligence. His father

father highly approved of the notion, and was not sorry, as the banker had proved so implacable, that he was once more at liberty, and relieved from the expence attendant upon a sickly, capricious, and disappointed wife, as the ten thousand pounds which he had come into by his marriage would amply provide for his wants, till he was called to the bar.

Fortune was, however, resolved to place the young lawyer above his profession; since he had hardly assumed his sables for Mrs. Clairville, ere his cousin, the only son of the earl of Monmouth, followed her to the grave, in consequence of a violent cold, brought on by sitting too long upon a damp bank, by the side of a river while angling, a diversion to which he was very partial; and the earl, who had been for some years in rather a declining state, received so great a shock, that he did not long survive the demise of so near and dear a relative.

Thus did our young widower's father become earl of Monmouth, and heir to the vast estates thereunto annexed: to his younger nephew, the deceased earl bequeathed his personals, no inconsiderable legacy; and he had now every reasonable hope of becoming, at some future period, Speaker of the House of Lords; when the gentleman with whom his elder brother went out to India addressed a very melancholy letter to lord Monmouth, announcing the death of his *protegée*, who had fallen a victim to one of those sudden and dangerous fevers incident to the climate.

The young student, therefore, became lord Clairville, and sole heir to the title and possessions of one of the most ancient families in the united kingdom. By his father's desire, he now gave up all thoughts of displaying his eloquence at the bar, as the earl merely meant to bring him forward in parliament, where his oratory would be displayed to equal advantage;

and

and he again became his father's inmate, who had now taken possession of the noble family-mansion in Berkeley-square.

Never had the banker been more out in his calculations; and he now sincerely wished that he had displayed less resentment towards the young viscount, since, had he forgiven his daughter, he might, as he had so long hoped, have seen her, in due time, a countess, and the wife of a very rich man; but who, as he often said, could have foreseen that so many people would have died, to have made way for a mere lawyer's clerk becoming a peer of the realm?

Mrs. Manby observed, that Cecil Clairville's family and connexions alone would have led to his speedy advancement in life. And pray what right had his daughter (on her side she was certainly well allied) to have looked for a greater match? What was his father?—a ship-master at Newcastle: and who did his sister marry?—a neighbouring farmer, a man of some property. She

She agreed but few families of rank and fortune would have suffered their sons to have engrafted their children upon such a stock.

Nothing galled the rich banker more than these references to his ancestry, as he never reverted to his family in any company; but Mrs. Manby was too well informed to be contradicted; and he could only declare, that he derived the more merit from having made his way, as he had done, under so many disadvantages; many peers had risen from as low beginnings; and he could purchase a title any day, if he thought it could add to his happiness or consequence.

"But you will never rank with the Monmouth family, Mr. Manby; their title was conferred by the First Henry, for their valiant deeds; and, depend upon it, lord Clairville will now repay your past scorn with interest."

"What care I, Mrs. Manby? I want nothing he has to bestow; and my grandson, though

though my father was only a ship-master, will be earl of Monmouth in his turn, and I dare say he will not despise the old citizen's money; nay, I should not wonder if his father was to advise him to seek my notice."

This is a brief sketch of the almost daily quarrels between the banker and his wife, both feeling very anxious to make up matters with lord Clairville, and infinitely more interested in the fate of their grandson, since he bid fair to be an earl.

Lord Clairville, on the contrary, never thought about them. He now had it amply in his power to provide for his son's infantine wants; and he did so most liberally, requiring his nurse to keep a servant solely to attend to him, and evincing his real regard for him, by paying him frequent visits; but having laid aside his mourning, he began to think of making a second choice. His father strongly urged his so doing; but hoped, as he did not merely look for money in a wife, that he would

not again make choice of a citizen's daughter; though no man did more justice to them in business; and he often declared, that some bankers and merchants were much better company than many peers, and their daughters were often equally well brought up; but as there also were some *Mr. Manbys* among the number, he wished lord Clairville to unite himself this time to a woman of family; having one in view, who united every requisite, he conceived, to charm his son, to extend his connexions, and to increase his income; and as the marquis of Inverness was no less anxious to promote this desirable union, he so managed matters in concert with the earl, that lord Clairville soon declared himself in favour of lady Frances Bolinbroke, upon whose eldest son was to devolve the earldom annexed to the Inverness title, and all the estates thereunto annexed, which induced the marquis rather to rejoice at lord Clairville's having already a son to inherit the title and estates of the

Monmouth

Monmouth family, since his own name and honours would not be sunk in a superior English earldom.

As Prudence, as well as Love, presided at lord Clairville's second nuptials, proper settlements were made upon the bride-elect, and her future offspring. A special licence was provided, and the young couple were united by a bishop, at the marquis's town-house in Hanover-square, from whence they set off, as soon as the happy knot was tied, for a seat in Lincolnshire, which lord Monmouth had made over to his son upon this occasion.

Neither the banker nor his lady had even heard of the impending wedding; indeed, they seldom mixed in the superior circles; and neither of them had understood the mere hints and innuendoes respecting their son-in-law and his bride which had crept into the daily papers, the editors of which not having been paid for so doing, had not thought proper to announce their ap-

proaching marriage for the benefit of the public.

But the morning after the wedding, Mrs. Manby, who generally ran over the daily paper while making breakfast for her husband, suddenly exclaimed—" Lord bless me, who could have thought it! married again! why how long has our poor Helen been dead?"

" Why what has that to do with what you are reading, Mrs. Manby?—but she has been dead upwards of two years."

" Aye, poor soul! and lord Clairville is married again!"

" Married again! z——ds you don't say so!—to whom?"

" To lady Frances Bolinbroke, only daughter to the marquis of Inverness. But here is a long account of the ceremony, even to the bride's dress: our poor child was not married in such form: however, if you had been rather more kind, Mr. Manby, she might have been alive now, and

and lady Clairville, instead of this fine lady."

"She was properly punished for her disobedience, Mrs. Manby; and I would have equally resented her marrying a peer, as a commoner, without my consent: but you would provoke a saint; before she married, you was always telling me I spoiled her, and that I should ruin her temper by my indulgence, and now you accuse me of having been too harsh—I say I only displayed a proper degree of authority; my father would have acted the same part by any child of his who had offended him, and yet he was reckoned too indulgent towards me; still I made my way in the world, and would not, even now, great man as he is, change places with lord Clairville. I am not ashamed of having been educated at a free school—he was upon the foundation at Winchester, and I began my career a clerk in a country banking-house; therefore I think I deserve some credit, for having risen to see my name at the head of

one of the first banking-houses in England."

"And pray, Mr. Manby, would it greatly redound to your honour, were you to publish how you accumulated your boasted riches, which hitherto have not greatly added to your comfort?"

"But I say they have, madam; and if 'tis only to spite this great man, I will render my grandson, if he lives, and does well, independent of him before I die, and he shall inherit all I am worth, when I do depart this life."

"Your grandson has certainly a right to your money; I only wish you had, as I suggested, offered to have taken him under your care when his poor mother died—his father was only Mr. Clairville then, and might have agreed to your proposal; now, ten to one whether he ever will; indeed he might feel offended were it made him."

"He is no fool—he must know it will be to the child's advantage to place him under our care; so by way of paving the

way

way to a sort of reconciliation, as I suppose I must concede a little, I will write him a congratulatory letter upon his marriage."

"That will prove of no avail; indeed he might misconstrue your meaning; no, let me go and see the child at Peckham; I shall perhaps learn how he is to be disposed of; the nurse may be brought to second my views; and I hope lady Clairville will forward our scheme, as she may not wish that her children should have a rival in their father's affections."

"They will all be glad enough to part with the poor baby, I make no doubt," resumed the banker; "so get you gone, as I shall think every moment an age till we have him under our care."

Mrs. Manby immediately proceeded to Peckham, whither she had privately bent her steps twice before; of course she had no difficulty in finding the nurse's house, and to whom she now announced herself as the grandmother of her nursling, who was a fine healthy boy of his age, and

whose dress was suitable to his father's rank in life. Mrs. Day, his nurse, assured the now-fond grandmother, that master Cecil had every indulgence a child of his age could require, such as a servant wholly to attend upon him, a variety of toys, and a smart little carriage; and that both the earl and lord Clairville made a point of visiting him once a week.

Mrs. Manby was highly gratified by these details; and having made nurse a suitable present, and given her grandson a variety of toys, she departed, promising to call again in a few days. She did so, accompanied by the banker; and during the ensuing five weeks, she never suffered three days to elapse without visiting Peckham. The banker would fain have engaged Mrs. Day to bring her charge into Fenchurch-street; but she begged to be excused, till she had lord Clairville's sanction for so doing; he had been a generous master to her, and she would not risk incurring his displeasure; in fact, she acted by lord Mon-

mouth's

mouth's orders, who visited the child as usual, and thus learnt the banker's sudden kindness towards him; but did not mention the circumstance to his son in his letters, thinking it better to let matters take their course.

At the expiration of six weeks, the new-married couple returned to town, and, as had been agreed upon, took up their abode with the earl of Monmouth, when lady Clairville requested to have the young Cecil taken home; his present nurse, as she was a very experienced woman, and a widow, might continue in attendance upon him, as well as his present maid, which would prevent the child from fretting at his removal, and would be far preferable to bringing him among comparative strangers. Lord Clairville was extremely gratified by his lady's kind anticipation of the first wish of his heart; and as Mrs. Day, who hoped to continue for some years superintendant of the nursery department, readily

agreed

agreed to remove with her young charge into Berkeley-square, Mrs. Manby found her busily employed in making the necessary arrangements, preparatory to her so doing, when she next visited Peckham —"Did you mention my visits to his lordship?" asked the rather surprised grandmother.

"No, madam; my lord had so much to say to me respecting master Cecil, and lady Clairville was so anxious to have him home, that I had no opportunity; but I will not fail to do so as soon as I arrive in Berkeley-square." Mrs. Manby was very generous in return, and hastened home to relate what had passed to the banker.

"Going to take the boy home, hey? to save expences, I suppose: well, I will write him a civil letter, and offer at once to take him off his hands. I think I can see through his present manœuvre; he has heard that we have noticed the child, so he hopes to induce me to propose taking the sole charge

charge of him; and as I am really anxious to have him bred under my own eyes, why for once, I will affect to be his dupe, else I am not to be taken in by his flimsy scheme: the more I reflect upon it, the more obvious it becomes to me: a likely thing that his fine lady wife should wish to be burthened with a child before she has any of her own."

Mrs. Manby was rather puzzled what to think—the child might be removed to keep him out of their way; but she could not suppose lord Clairville expected they should propose to undertake the care of him; at all events, his answer to the banker's application would decide the matter. Mr. Manby instantly wrote the proposed letter.

He began by observing, that it was useless to revert to the past; he had, perhaps, suffered his anger to lead him greater lengths than he had intended; however, as his poor daughter was no more, it was useless to say that he did not mean to continue at enmity with her for ever; but as a proof

proof that he was now inclined to pay the greatest respect to her memory, he proposed, admitting it met his (lord Clairville's) approbation, to take the entire charge of his grandson upon himself; he would bring him up to do honour to his rank in life, provide for all his present and future wants, and make him his heir when he died, admitting his proposal was accepted; of course the child should be permitted to visit his father whenever he was sent for; and his doors, both in town and country, should always be open to lord Clairville, or the earl of Monmouth, who must see the numerous advantages which must accrue to the young Cecil, should they agree to his plan. Having folded and sealed this conclusive letter, as he styled it, he sent it that evening into Berkeley-square by a clerk, with orders to wait for an answer. Lord Clairville was not at home, was the answer returned, and Master Clairville was very well.

Lord Clairville, in consequence of what he

he had learnt from nurse Day, was by no means surprised upon receipt of this letter; and though he did not wish to deprive his son of the immense fortune which he might, perhaps, inherit from his mean, obstinate grandfather, he was resolved not to insure it him, by suffering the banker to superintend his education, since no man, in his opinion, could be more unfit for such an undertaking; besides, now he could so amply provide for all the child's present and future wants, his proposition was almost an insult, since he knew, that were he weak and sordid enough to agree to his wishes, it would afford the narrow-minded cit a complete triumph, who might even then, in a fit of caprice, disinherit the child of his once-idolized daughter; at all events, he was resolved not to put his generosity to the test, and was by no means sorry the banker had thus unintentionally enabled him to convince him that he had not yet forgotten the past: as to his money, ten to one, when he found he did not

chuse his son should profit by his intended bounty, but, out of the pure spirit of contradiction, he secured it all to him, if only to render him independent, and to provoke him.

Trusting this wholly to chance, he returned a very politely-worded answer to the banker's request, thanking him for the interest he took in his son's welfare; but as he was also very fond of the child, and had it equally in his power to provide for all his present and future wants, he could not think of delegating so sacred a trust to any other person during his lifetime. But did not, like the banker, conclude by inviting either Mr. or Mrs. Manby to visit their grandchild, not wishing now to be upon more familiar terms with either.

As he had foreseen, the banker and his wife were both mortified and disappointed, upon receipt of this letter, which occasioned a renewal of the old quarrel. Mrs. Manby declared she was by no means surprised lord Clairville had refused to accede

to his proposal; his reference to his daughter, and his great boast of what he meant to do, and implied threat if his terms were not approved of, were by no means likely to conciliate matters.

"Would she have had him have sneaked and cringed to the proud jackanapes, and have craved, as a great favour, the liberty of spending a fortune upon his son? however, he continued resolved to make the boy his heir; and if he died before he became of age, he should appoint his partners his guardians, with orders to make him a sufficient allowance, to render him completely independent of my lord Pompous; and if he lived, he would be bound to teach the boy the difference between an indulgent grandfather and a titled father, who would not have more, if so much, to spend as he should."

"Certainly you have planned a very wise mode of revenge, Mr. Manby, that of ruining your grandson's principles, as you did your daughter's temper, and then punished

nished her for daring to have a will of her own; you had much better leave your money to found an hospital, than to render it subservient to your revenge."

The banker swore he would do as he pleased; and thus the dispute ended, as he was and always had been deaf to reason, and when once resolved, no one could alter his determination.

CHAP. III.

THE youthful Cecil soon became the darling pet of the whole family in Berkeley-square. He was, without being what is termed a beautiful child, a very fine healthy boy; and might have been deemed, so stout and well-proportioned did he

he appear, an infant Hercules; in addition to which, he was all life and spirits, exceedingly good-tempered, and bid fair to be very clever. Lady Clairville soon doated upon him; and he was no less fond of his pretty mama, the appellation he always gave her; even lord Inverness was delighted with his infantine prattle; and such credit did he do nurse Day, that she was appointed to take the additional charge of his expected brother or sister, with proper subalterns to exonerate her from any additional trouble; and in due time lady Clairville presented her lord with the son whom we mentioned in the beginning of our history, who was, with a proper regard to fashionable etiquette, christened Godfrey, and soon became the idol of his elder brother, whom, it had been feared, would have been jealous of the young stranger; but nurse Day was a sensible woman, and lady Clairville always bestowed an equal share of attention upon her elder as upon her younger son; so did his father, who often told him he

must

must protect his infant brother from all harm, and as he grew up, teach him how to play with him, and thus obtain his love, and that of his pretty mama; and so strictly did he adhere to this advice, that Cecil was the first word which Godfrey lisped; and the brothers, even in childhood, promised to be united in the strictest bonds of amity, which still more endeared the eldest to his father and lady Clairville, who sincerely rejoiced, when she learnt the banker's proposals, that her lord had not acceded to their request.

As Mr. Manby could not, unasked, visit his grandson in Berkeley-square, little of moment occurred, till Cecil attained his seventh year, if we except that his mama had also given him a little sister, who could but just articulate her wishes, when lord Clairville thought proper to place him under the care of a clergyman who resided at Chiswick, and who received a select number of boarders into his house, preparatory to their being sent to Eton, Westminster,

or

or Harrow, as his lordship by no means approved of a private education for boys, since he did not think it preserved their morals, and certainly did not improve their temper; besides, they were apt to fancy themselves prodigies, if they had merely a common understanding; whereas, in all public schools, they merely rose by their merits, and were much better calculated to make their way in the world.

Lady Clairville mingled her tears with those of her children when the moment of separation arrived, though she very judiciously pointed out the necessity there was of Cecil's now leaving the nursery, as he was growing a man, and was to set his brother the example, who must in future look up to him for his early instruction. Cecil certainly displayed great fortitude, as his father had wisely prepared him for his departure, by many admonitions suited to his age; and he left him well satisfied, if not quite happy, with Dr. Bentley, who promised to pay great attention to

his

his disposition and propensities, as he was merely required to give the first impression to the wax, and much depended upon that being a proper and a permanent one.

No intercourse had taken place between the banker and lord Clairville since the latter had rejected Mr. Manby's generous offer respecting his grandson; but as nurse Day was not restricted from letting Mrs. Manby know how he went on, from her his grandmother learnt what a favourite he was with every body, and finally, his intended removal to Chiswick.

Mr. Manby was rejoiced he had not been sent further from London; but as he had his doubts whether lord Clairville might not have prohibited his visits at Chiswick, he desired his wife, as the least likely to meet with a refusal, to address his lordship, to request she might be allowed to visit her grandson now and then, as he was no longer under his immediate protection, and she could not be at the same certainty of his being properly attended to. It

sorely galled the rich banker thus to humble himself even by deputy; but as he could devise no better plan, Mrs. Manby wrote a very polite conciliating letter, to which she received an immediate and no less polite answer, requesting that she would visit her grandson, when and where she pleased.

This was indeed a triumph to the good lady, who set out early the next morning to visit Cecil, now grown a fine bold boy, very tall of his age, and by no means deficient in point of sense, talents, or vivacity: though he did not recollect his grandmother, he was rather gratified by her visit, as she came loaded with toys and cakes, and promised to bring him a weekly supply of each, if he would but love her in return. Cecil said he always loved those who loved him and Godfrey, for whom he selected several of the toys and some of the cakes; and Mrs. Manby returned to town, hoping ere long to rival his pretty mama, in whose praise he was very elo-

quent, in his favour: and from that time she never let a week elapse without visiting him; and before the expiration of a month, she ventured to petition lord Clairville for leave to take him down to Woodford on a Saturday, and to keep him there till Monday. To this, however, his lordship did not agree, as he foresaw it would unsettle the child; and he generally spent the Sunday with him and lady Clairville; but promised, by way of softening his refusal, that he should always spend a week at Woodford during the winter and summer vacation; and with this promise, grandpapa and mama were forced to be satisfied; and on the day the midsummer holidays commenced, grandmama was in waiting for her pet, who felt rather disappointed at not going home first; nor could all their presents, nor their constant indulgence, prevent him from continually inquiring why he did not see papa and mama, and his dear Godfrey? and when he should go home? In vain the banker redoubled his caresses, and promised

mised him every indulgence, if he would but love him as well as he did papa and Godfrey. Cecil still harped upon the same strain; and almost broke his neck in running down stairs, when his father's chariot and four, with nurse Day, and the youthful Frances, stopped at the great gates; and regardless of grandmama's tears and grandpapa's promises that he should have a nice poney when he came again, he was all impatience to depart, and asked nurse a thousand questions respecting papa, mama, but above all, Godfrey; and never had he felt so happy as when he leaped out of the carriage into his father's arms; but to find himself once more at play with Godfrey, now in his fifth year, and a most beautiful engaging child, was to him the height of bliss. With this beloved brother, and his father and mother, he went to visit lord Inverness in Scotland, and did not return to Chiswick, till a fortnight after the school had opened.

Again the banker and his wife renewed

 their

their visits and their blandishments, as even Mrs. Manby wished to rival, at least, mama and Godfrey in his good graces; and as lord and lady Clairville continued in the country, as did lord Monmouth, Cecil was permitted once a-fortnight to spend Saturday afternoon and Sunday at Woodford. But Mr. and Mrs. Manby did not gain ground so fast as they expected in his good graces: when wisely told by the banker that lady Clairville was not his mother, of course, not so nearly related to him as they were, he only replied, that he loved her best for all that, and she was Godfrey's mama, if not his; besides, she loved him as much as he did her, and he should never be happy if he was to live where they neither of them never came. This was said in reply to a question of the banker—whether he had not rather live with them, than continue at school? but Cecil was not to be bribed to speak what he did not think. Mr. Manby consoled himself with the idea, that he was a mere child; as he grew older, he

he would know better; and his good sense would teach him how much it was to his interest to pay his court to him.

Five years, however, soon slipped away, without any alteration having taken place in Cecil's sentiments: he was now a fine handsome youth, whose open countenance announced the goodness of his heart, and the liberality of his disposition; and Dr. Bentley prognosticated that he would be a first-rate scholar, as he was blessed with very superior talents. Some of the banker's friends, out of mere compliment, affected to perceive a great family likeness between him and his grandson, which greatly endeared him to the old man, who foresaw his boy would prove the flower of the family. But soon after he had entered his twelfth year, he was removed to Eton; and Godfrey took his place at Chiswick, where he soon became even a greater favourite than his brother had been, since a native dignity, which scorned a meanness, or a misrepresentation, or any plausible duplicity,

city, was his distinguishing trait, even in childhood. Dr. Bentley soon appreciated the force of his character, and regarded him accordingly, often assuring lord Monmouth that his younger son would prove an excellent example to his elder brother, declaring that no one rejoiced more than he did at the warm fraternal affection which they bore each other.

CHAP. IV.

Mr. and Mrs. Manby sorely lamented Cecil's removal to Eton, as they thought Dr. Bentley was fully competent to teach him all it was necessary he should learn. It was the fashion, to be sure, to send young men of rank to these great public schools, and

and they would not interfere in the business. Mrs. Manby could only resolve to visit a friend she had at Windsor oftner than heretofore; and the banker determined to hire a house in those environs during the summer months, where they might receive the dear boy whenever opportunity offered; since, though Cecil had never evinced any decided partiality for them, he always seemed happy to see them; and they persuaded themselves that as he grew up, they should indubitably rival lord Clairville and Godfrey in his affections; he was, therefore, requested to apply to them whenever he wanted any thing that he did not chuse to ask of his father; and most willingly would they have taken every expence attending his schooling upon themselves; but they dared not make the proposal, " for fear," said Mr. Manby, " of rousing the sleeping lion," whom he fancied he had lulled into perfect security; and by slow degrees he hoped so completely to undermine his parental authority, that Cecil would

would consider his advice as superfluous, and pay no regard to his lordship's admonitions. Mrs. Manby, though equally fond of her grandson, did not wish to weaken, but merely to share his affection with his father, of whom she always spoke in the highest terms, and by this means, certainly much more than rivalled his grandfather in his esteem.

But if Cecil was the idol of Mr. Manby, Godfrey was no less beloved by the marquis of Inverness, whose affections were all centered in his only daughter and her children; yet he was by no means blind to the merits of Cecil, who equally called him grandpapa, and who shared in every gift he bestowed upon Godfrey: this judicious conduct united the brothers still more closely, and either would have readily made the greatest sacrifice to oblige, or serve the other.

Cecil had just entered into his fourteenth year, when lord Monmouth paid the debt of nature, and most sincerely was he lamented

mented by his heir and grandchildren. The banker alone felt rejoiced, since his grandson now became lord Clairville; and he never failed to introduce his name into every conversation, so proud was he of this titled relative. Cecil had been too early accustomed to the society of the great, to feel equally enamoured with this addition to his consequence; he had still many superiors at Eton, and a number of equals; besides, superior talents were there looked up to, more than superior rank: but as his mind unfolded, he took much less pleasure in the society of his maternal grandfather; nevertheless, in obedience to his father's wishes, he always treated him with the greatest respect, and, as usual, he visited Woodford during the vacations; but though indulged in every whim while there, and even cloyed with dainties, he always rejoiced when he was summoned home; and as the earl had always liberally provided for all his schoolboy wants, and lady Monmouth was still more generous towards

 him,

him, not to mention the handsome presents he frequently received from lord Inverness, the banker's mistaken liberality did not produce the expected effect, nor did it spoil his temper, though it certainly led to his becoming more careless and dissipated than the earl could have wished; and he had plenty of friends at Eton to lead him into follies and expence.

The banker seldom suffered a fortnight to elapse without visiting Windsor; and as he was ever eager to entertain all Cecil's favourite companions, he rather rejoiced to see him; and generally, by his desire, he invited some of his young friends to visit him, during the week in the vacations he still devoted to his grandfather. At eighteen he was to be entered at Cambridge; and when he arrived, as usual, at Woodford at the commencement of the summer vacation prior to his removal from Eton, the banker fancied that he seemed dissatisfied with the earl. Few things could have been more gratifying to him, though he did

did not chuse to ask any explanation, for fear he should be obliged to take part against his favourite, as he well knew that lord Monmouth was never actuated by caprice in his conduct towards him, and that he was a most affectionate, kind father; nevertheless he would have seriously rejoiced, could he have induced Cecil to brave his anger, as he more than ever wished to pay his own court at the expence of this very powerful rival; therefore, by way of paving the road to so desirable an event, he assured Cecil, that if he never gave him reason to alter his mind, and that was by no means likely, he had resolved to make him sole heir to all he was worth; and he believed, without boasting, that he could count guineas with the earl.

"That was very probable," Cecil replied; assuring him in return, that neither his regard nor his respect were to be purchased; as he felt rather hurt, than gratified by the banker's half promise, who found he must not hope to bribe him even into

loving him, as any such attempt might have the exact contrary effect; he therefore changed the conversation, by inquiring after Godfrey, now in his fifteenth year, and thus discovered the source of Cecil's chagrin.

The earl had agreed to his entering the army, and, as a preliminary step, meant, after the holidays, to place him at a military academy for the ensuing two years; and yet he had objected to his following the same profession. The banker would have thought him highly to blame, had he consented to his so doing. Godfrey was the youngest, and, as such, if either of them were to fight the battles of their country, he was surely the most proper. This Cecil thought very absurd reasoning, since, though a younger brother, Godfrey bid fair to be, in time, his equal; and the Inverness estates were rather larger than those belonging to the Monmouth family.

"Then Godfrey would be too rich a man, were he to succeed to both," replied the

the banker; "besides, he did not think he could have borne a separation from his beloved Cecil; whereas lord Inverness, having seen service himself, and being still in the army, might have desired his grandson should follow the same profession."

"I only wish you were like him, a general officer, sir; then you might have pleaded my cause with my father, who now merely says, he cannot consent to both his sons entering the army. Had I evinced the same inclination I do now at fourteen, I should have had the preference; but I must now content myself with serving my country in the senate."

"The earl reasons like an oracle," replied the banker, who had never before felt so cordially inclined towards him; and Mrs. Manby was still more pleased with his having so prudently restrained the youthful ardour of her grandson: and had lord Monmouth felt inclined to humour his eldest son, he would have been restrained from so doing, from knowing the unkind con-

struction which Mr. Manby would have put upon his compliance.

Godfrey had, from a child, evinced a desire to be a soldier, like grandpapa; and had been early encouraged to adopt the profession by lord Inverness, who often said, every noble family in the kingdom ought, at such a time, to place, at least, one of their sons in the army or navy.

The banker, who had never before felt even a wish to become acquainted with Godfrey Clairville, now expressed a desire to see him; and requested that Cecil would invite him to spend a few days at Woodford with him during the present vacation. Cecil required no more; but instantly dispatched a note to his father, to intreat he would allow Godfrey to come down to Woodford on the Saturday, promising to return with him to dinner on the Monday, when he was to leave town with the family for the summer.

The earl was rather surprised at the banker's wish to see a youth he could not

suppose

suppose he really liked, as he was convinced that he would have preferred his grandson having been an only son; but as the brothers were as much attached to each other as ever, and he knew he should be gratifying them, he acceded to Cecil's wish; and on the Saturday, sent Godfrey in his post-chaise to Woodford. Cecil, who had heard from his brother when he might expect him, gave him the meeting at Hackney; and entered into every detail, during their short drive, he thought it necessary Godfrey should be made acquainted with, previous to his introduction to Mr. and Mrs. Manby, to whom he exultingly introduced his beloved brother; and little as the banker, in particular, was inclined to like his visitor, both him and his wife could not help acknowledging that he was the finest youth of his age they had ever seen; and what, perhaps, led to their doing him this justice, was the strong attachment he evinced for their beloved Cecil, who certainly returned his love with interest;

rest; and they seemed so happy in each others company, that when they took their leave, Mr. Manby cordially joined his wife, in requesting Godfrey would, in future, spend a few days with them, whenever Cecil was their inmate.

CHAP. V.

LORD Clairville, thanks to his grandfather's ample addition to the earl's very handsome allowance, was soon enabled to vie with all his equals, in point of expenditure, at Cambridge. He kept the best horses, the most knowing grooms; and though he did not absolutely neglect his studies, the earl often reminded him, that he appeared to have forgotten why he had sent him to the university,

university. These gentle remonstrances had sometimes the desired effect of rendering him more attentive to his tutor's admonitions; but a meeting at Newmarket, or any other amusement, suited to his taste, soon called off his attention; and unfortunately, as the earl thought, before he had been a twelvemonth at the university, the rage for driving began to seize many youths of fashion, who were more anxious to take lessons of the most celebrated stage coachmen in this noble and useful art, than to prosecute what their parents thought more necessary studies; and as all these fashionable *cochers* thought it incumbent upon them also to practise boxing, they had but little time to bestow upon public or private lectures. The earl found it was in vain to contend with the stream, therefore prudently forbore to question Cecil, respecting how he spent his time, as he soon found that he was encouraged in his folly and extravagance by Mr. Manby, who declared, he gloried in seeing

seeing his grandson at the head of the fashion: fortunately Cecil's innate principles, and the real regard he bore his father, prevented him from going into the vices, though he did so amply into the follies of the day.

Godfrey was meanwhile pursuing his military studies; and at seventeen, the marquis of Inverness bought him a commission in the *** regiment of dragoons, which was commanded by a particular friend of his, to whom, it may be supposed, he strongly recommended the young cornet, who was required to join immediately, and who soon found himself very pleasantly situated at Exeter, as he was domesticated in the family of one of the superior officers; and a soldier's life, in a garrison town, is certainly very pleasant. Cecil paid him an early visit; and during his first absence from his regiment, Godfrey returned it at Woodford, where he readily promised to celebrate Cecil's one-and-twentieth birthday, the earl having agreed to his eldest

son's

son's so doing, as it fell early in the spring; and he wished to be present during the *fête* he proposed to give his tenants upon the joyful occasion the ensuing summer.

Cecil, who was become a first-rate whip, had a most elegant, or rather, perhaps, a most fashionable barouche built upon the occasion; and having been busily employed during the preceding six months in collecting a proper set of horses to match his carriage, he was tempted to stake five hundred guineas upon their fleetness, declaring that he would, on his birth-day, start at ten, with four of these said horses, from Cambridge, and alight at three, at his grandfather's villa at Woodford, which he certainly did a few minutes before the clock had struck, and thus established his fame both as a *cocher* and a jockey.

He now took a final leave of Alma Mater, and began his career as a *bon vivant* dashing man of fashion. The earl contented himself with merely pointing out

to

to him that no fortune was sufficient to supply the wants of a gamester, and that, of all pleasures, it was the most fleeting and unsatisfactory; and fortunately, though Cecil now and then betted upon his horses, or backed some favourite pugilist, he did not rattle the dice, nor did he enter his name at any of the avowed gaming-houses; and he kept no racers of his own, though he made a point of attending those at Newmarket, and every other of any note among the world of fashion; yet he continued high in favour with lady Monmouth; and was so pleasant a companion, and so constitutionally gay, that even lord Inverness was among those who merely laughed at his follies, often prognosticating that he would take up in due time; and when young men were too prudent, they sometimes became misers as they grew old; and Cecil had an excellent understanding, and was remarkably quick at calculation, he sometimes told the earl; therefore,

fore, while he contented himself with betting with the members of the four-in-hand club, he ran no risk of ruining himself.

Godfrey was certainly his avowed favourite; and it was not one of Cecil's least merits that he could both appreciate and acknowledge the evident superiority of his brother, whose commanding figure, and the Grecian contour of his features, might have been considered by the sculptor as models for his art. The dark shade of his eyes, and the manly red and white of his complexion, gave a brilliant effect, and added a rich lustre to his face: but these personal advantages were, however, forgotten, and, as it were, lost in the captivating influence of his manners and appearance; his mind was seen in the emanations of his countenance. In every society, even at the early age of eighteen, he was a distinguished object; and his superiors in age, in rank, and even in attainments, eagerly sought his society, and exultingly boasted of their intimacy with so mere a youth, who

who was always the gayest amongst the gay, and who seemed, said lord Inverness, to ennoble the follies of his elder brother, whenever he ascended the box with him, without conceiving any impression inimical to his profession, or his morals, from their strict intimacy.

He had just celebrated his nineteenth birth-day, when he became earl of Angus, by the demise of this much-respected grandfather, and even more independent of lord Monmouth than Cecil had ever been, though the marquis had appointed him his sole guardian, and the executor of his last will. To his daughter he bequeathed his personals; and to Cecil he left five thousand pounds and a ring; he was not more bountiful to lady Frances Clairville, observing that she was so amply provided for by her mother's settlements, he did not chuse to render her independent of her parents, or to make her fortune a temptation to some needy man of fashion. Godfrey was merely required, in conformity

to

to the earl's former promise to that effect, to assume the name of Bolinbroke with his new honours, which he immediately did, with the entire approbation of his father, who would have grieved, he said, had so ancient a name have become extinct; besides, the English barony, thereunto annexed, gave Godfrey a seat in the house of peers.

Cecil openly rejoiced in his brother having thus become his superior. Not so Mr. Manby, who felt severely galled, and even blamed lord Monmouth for having so married, as to render his elder son and heir a man of less consequence than his brother, a mere youth, who would do much less honour to the family. To this Mrs. Manby could not agree. Lord Angus was a most elegant, pleasing young man; and had ever treated them with a degree of politeness that did credit to his understanding, and evinced his sincere regard for Cecil: but this reasoning could not reconcile the banker to his grandson being a mere lord by courtesy,

courtesy, while Godfrey was really an earl, and would, in consequence, take the *pas* of him; and certainly, had Cecil been at all inclined to be jealous of his brother, he would have fanned the sparks into a flame. The first time he saw his grandson, after the demise of lord Inverness, he eagerly inquired what he supposed his brother had come into? About five-and-thirty thousand a-year, was the reply. The banker groaned. The earl of Monmouth was not reputed to have more than thirty thousand a-year, and he feared he had rather less; to be sure, with the addition he should make to his grandson's fortune, he would be much the richer man of the two; but he would not be able to outshine the young soldier. He next inquired what lord Monmouth meant to allow his second son, till he became of age?

"Six thousand a-year, Godfrey told me—he has had but two hitherto."

"Then I will henceforth allow you eight, Cecil. I am resolved you shall keep pace with

with your brother; and if you draw upon the house for double that sum, your drafts shall be honoured."

Clairville thanked his ostentatious grandfather for his kind intentions, which certainly did not tend to curb his taste for extravagance, as the earl had thought it incumbent upon him to make him an allowance, suitable to his rank in life, from the time he left Eton, and he could have wished the banker had not thought proper to render him so completely independent of his authority; but as he was well aware why he was thus bountiful, he could only regret what he could not prevent.

Fortunately, the brothers' regard for each other strengthened with their growth; and Godfrey's example, though he was no saint, certainly prevented Cecil from adding a mistress to his establishment, as well as from drinking and playing deep; nor could he prevail upon lord Angus to become a member of the four-in-hand club. He pleaded laziness in excuse for not ac-

ceding to his wishes, declaring, that he found it quite exercise enough to drive a curricle; nor did he like to see an officer in regimentals driving a barouche; and he should, therefore, grow awkward for want of sufficient practice; besides, he preferred sitting by him, to holding the reins himself; and as Cecil enjoyed his doing so, he ceased to argue the point with him, when, to his great dismay, Godfrey's regiment was ordered to Spain. At first he hoped the earl would endeavour, on account of his youth, as he was only in his twentieth year, to get his brother excused from going abroad; but much as lord Monmouth loved him, such an idea could never have entered his head; these were times, when "*England expected every man should do his duty;*" and many young men of equal, if not superior, rank and family were also going abroad; to repine would therefore be absurd, and would only damp the ardour of the youthful hero. Lady Monmouth was not so resigned, though,

as

as she felt the separation was inevitable, she endeavoured to bear it with fortitude; still she could not help regretting that her only son should have chosen so dangerous a profession; nor was lady Frances Clairville, who was a very striking likeness of lord Angus, and who had just made her *entrée* into the gay world, at all more reconciled to the idea of parting with a brother, of whom, in common with all who knew him, she was doatingly fond.

When Cecil found that the earl considered Godfrey's leaving England as a matter of course, in consequence of the orders his regiment had received, he endeavoured to reconcile himself to what he foresaw was unavoidable; and to raise lady Monmouth's and his sister's spirits, by the most cheering prognostics, as he continued his father's inmate, who, like him, endeavoured to display merely the bright side of what was, as yet, concealed in futurity.

In fact, Cecil had secretly resolved to ac-

company the young lieutenant as a volunteer; but Godfrey no sooner received a hint of his intentions, than he effectually put a stop to this proof of the sincerity of his fraternal regard, by not only disclosing his plan to his father, but also to the banker, whose alarm would, he well knew, induce him to assail his brother with such persuasions as he would be unable to withstand, while he also represented to him, that were he to persevere in what he did not scruple to denominate a mere Quixote scheme, he would only aggravate the distress of his parents, which it ought to be his sole study to alleviate; and, in short, reasoned so ably, that he induced his brother to relinquish an almost fixed purpose, who now merely insisted upon accompanying him to Portsmouth, where his regiment was to embark, as the earl ought to remain at home, to console lady Monmouth and Fanny.

And thus it was finally settled; as Cecil, to appearance, no longer the gay, volatile, dashing

dashing youth of fashion, seemed to dread spending even a moment from hence, till Godfrey left London, in his company, for Portsmouth, where he remained till his beloved brother sailed, whom he entreated to be careful of his own life, for the sake of those dear friends whom he left behind; and requested, if he ever had a call for more money than he chose to draw for, through the medium of the earl, he would make no scruple of drawing upon him to any amount, as he would dispose of all his stud, and reduce his expences within the limits of his father's allowance, rather than know his brother wanted for any luxuries, while upon a service of such danger.

Godfrey could only assure him in return, that he fully appreciated his kind offers, and that he should, without scruple, apply to him in time of need. This promise satisfied Cecil, who, having seen the fleet under sail for Spain, returned to town, to give in his report, declaring, that his life would seem a mere blank till Godfrey's return.

 The

The earl reminded him, that they had never spent more than six months at a time together since he was seven years old, therefore he ought to set his sister an example of fortitude; and as he resolved to write very often to his brother, he soon mixed again in society, that he might pick up anecdotes to amuse the absentee, and beguile the time till his return.

CHAP. VI.

The banker, who fancied Cecil had given up accompanying his brother merely out of regard for him, though he had assured him that Godfrey alone had induced him to relinquish the scheme, made him a very handsome pecuniary present, observing, that

that he had made an excellent bargain for the late loan; and pointing out to his grandson how he might greatly increase his income, by suffering him, under the rose, to add his name to their firm; assuring him, that many noblemen were so connected with banking and other mercantile houses, as they were generally privy to many things, which led to their partners making very lucrative bargains; acknowledging that he had, when he first set up in business, been the agent of a very great man, who had helped him to many pretty things.

These confessions did not, as he had hoped, raise him in his grandson's esteem, who absolutely declined becoming a sleeping partner in the firm, assuring him, that if he found it at all inconvenient to minister so bountifully to his pleasures, he could content himself with his father's allowance.

The old man declared he had totally misunderstood him, if his proposals had led to his forming such erroneous conjectures; he was rich enough to double the allow-

ance he now made him, without feeling any inconvenience; he only wished to put him in a sure method of becoming one of the richest nobles in Europe; and many lords, he must know, were bankers. The earl proposed bringing him into parliament at the next election, which might lead, in time, to his obtaining some honourable post in the ministry.

Cecil had no such ambition; his father was, besides, in the opposition; and he did not believe that any temptation the present ministry could hold out, would induce him to change sides.

"May be not: but he was not always so independent in his principles, else he would not have married your mother against my consent."

"I am convinced he was solely actuated by love, sir: and I think you ought to do him more justice; as you cannot have forgotten how he settled her small fortune; nor that he put me in possession of the principal sum when I became of age; and also

also settle upon me what he thought sufficient to support my rank in life."

Mrs. Manby, who was present, and who dreaded a quarrel between her obstinate husband and her darling grandson, instantly interfered, saying—" We alone were to blame, for withholding the olive branch, at the time you allude to, Mr. Manby: the earl of Monmouth acted very honourably by our daughter; and has shewn a very proper respect for her memory, by his conduct towards her son: I only wish we were upon better terms with him."

" Well, well, Mrs. Manby, I do not want to run the earl down; he was a youth when he married, and I was prejudiced against him; so let us drop the subject; as I meant no reflections against his lordship; he has been an excellent father; and I only wish we were better friends than we are. Indeed I do hope, in time, we shall, for surely we shall meet at your wedding, Cecil, and then nothing shall be wanting on my part to conciliate matters; so only

look out for a proper wife, my dear boy, and I will settle ten thousand a-year upon you on your wedding-day, and I think I may promise you as much more when I die."

This was generally the salvo the banker made use of, when he ventured to avow his real dislike of the earl, as he was much too jealous of his influence over Cecil, to feel at all cordially inclined towards him. Of this his grandson was not aware, who attributed to ignorance many speeches, which would else have seriously offended him; but the more his attachment increased for this his only surviving relative, (that is, whom he ever chose to acknowledge), the more jealous the banker became of all those who shared his affection with him; but particularly of the earl and his second son, whom, he feared, ranked higher than he did in lord Clairville's esteem; and as he partly attributed this to their being titled men, he was extremely careful to avoid reverting to his own family, or ori-

gin, before his grandson: indeed he could have wished to have forgotten he ever had a father, though a man of respectability in his line; but he was still inclined to recollect that he had once a sister, who had, as Mrs. Manby often reminded him, married an opulent farmer: true, she and her husband had paid the debt of nature; but unfortunately they had left a son behind them, who he knew had a large family, and to whom a few of those hundreds he encouraged lord Clairville to circulate *pro bono publico* would be very acceptable; but as they had never applied to him, and fortunately did not bear his name, he wisely endeavoured to forget that there were such people in existence, never having felt that sort of *amor patriæ,* which particularly endears their native spot to some individuals, who feel a pride in returning a great man to the village which gave them birth. Mr. Manby had no such pride; and the older he grew, the more anxious he became to veil his origin in obscurity, particularly

 from

from his titled grandson, who was much more free from arrogance, and who would as readily have acknowledged the honest ship-master his great grandfather, as his son the rich banker; nay, had he been poor, he would have treated him with the greater respect. But as he fancied time hung particularly heavy upon his hands at the present juncture, he joined in every plan of amusement which was suggested by his fashionable friends; and lord Clairville's horses, and his very superior skill in driving, were often mentioned in the daily papers, as he was now one of the most distinguished members of that very *useful fraternity*, the four-in-hand club.

These praises, we must suppose, induced him, a few months after his brother's departure, to make several matches against time, which he as constantly won, and which led to his making one with lord ***, who was reckoned the best gentleman *cocher* in England; and bets to an amazing amount were soon pending upon the issue of

of the contest. They were to start from Hyde Park Corner at eight o'clock in the morning, as they did not suppose there would be many carriages upon the road so early; and the one who first reached the Red Lion at Brentford was to be pronounced the winner.

At starting, the odds were in favour of Cecil, whose horses were supposed to be rather the most fleet; but then lord *** was considered as the more skilful driver, and he might, therefore, baffle his adversary. It had been agreed that no one should precede them to clear the way, which was considered as rather against Cecil. However, off they dashed, in what those who were present declared to be high style; and at the entrance of Kensington, Cecil took the lead, and was full twenty yards in advance, when he reached the narrow part near the church, and where stood a broad-wheeled waggon, in so awkward a position, that a carriage could not pass with safety on either side. Cecil called

led

led out most lustily; but the waggoner, a great stout fellow, who was talking with another man upon the pavement, paid so little regard to what he said, that Cecil swore if he did not break the way for him to pass that moment, he would get down and lay his whip about his back.

The fellow merely grinned at him, saying—" Aye, aye, master, but two can play at that," flourishing his long whalebone whip while speaking.

Provoked beyond endurance, and depending upon his skill both as a whip and a boxer, he sprang from his seat, and began to put his threat in execution; but as the waggoner kept him rather at bay, the whips being both too long to admit of their coming to close quarters, our gentleman coachman threw his down, and had recourse to his fists; and as he was a scientific boxer, he soon had the decided advantage. But while he was thus busily engaged, lord ***, at every risk, taking the most favourable side, past the waggon; but in

so doing, as he was obliged to drive upon the foot pavement, and even close to the houses, he broke in a shop window, which impeded his progress; but without stopping to remark the mischief he had done, he dashed forward, in hopes of winning the wager with ease.

The more-than-ever provoked Cecil having lain his antagonist all his length in the street, seized his whip, put the waggon-horses into motion, and then once more springing upon his own box, he was enabled to pass without any risk or difficulty. But he now had the mortification to perceive lord *** three or four hundred yards before him, and foresaw that he should inevitably be distanced; still he did not chuse to give it in; and he was within sixty yards of him, and about a quarter of a mile from Brentford, when a man, who was coming at the full speed of an excellent horse, rode by his carriage; he had the waggoner's whip in his hand, and appeared in the greatest fury, crying out, as he galloped on—

"If

"If I don't make him pay for it, I will be d—d! or I will have it out of his bones!"

A second glance convinced Cecil this was the very man whose shop window had been beat in by lord ***, who had applied to him as he was mounting his box, to inquire —"Who was to pay the damage?"

"Those who did the mischief, to be sure," replied Cecil, driving off; and as no one knew who either of them were, but all supposed them to be two gentlemen's coachmen trying the mettle of their respective horses, the enraged tradesman, at a loss what course to pursue, happening to see his butcher's horse standing at the door ready saddled, hastily seized the waggoner's whip, who encouraged him to make good use of it, and galloped off after the carriages. Having past Cecil, he soon overtook lord ***, calling out in a menacing tone, as he approached—"Stop, and pay me for the window!"

His lordship, who was lashing away, as if he

he was upon life and death, made a stroke at the angry tradesman's horse, to keep him out of the way, which induced his rider not only to return the stroke with interest, but by means of his whip, to drive the leaders upon the foot-path, and completely impede the peer's progress.

Cecil, who was delighted at the fracas, called out as he came up—" That's right, my lads—go it!" and as he dashed past, he cried—" Get down, my lord, and serve the fellow as I did the waggoner!"

Lord *** did not happen to be a boxer, nor could he so easily extricate himself; in short, he was obliged to pull up, to avoid being overturned. To be thus unexpectedly baffled, at the very moment of anticipated triumph, was truly galling. He had intended to pay for the mischief he had done; and had he been civil to the man when he came up with him, and desired him to accompany him to Brentford, Cecil would not have past him. He was, however, candid enough to acknowledge he was

most

most to blame, when he told the tradesman who he was, and why he had ran the risk he evidently did, when he broke his window, desiring him to return home, and to have the damage estimated, which he would pay when he came back. The shopkeeper was truly sorry for what he had done, declaring he would not have stopped his lordship for ten times the sum, had he only known who he was; acknowledging he had merely supposed they were the coachmen, instead of the masters of the equipages. Lord *** now merely walked his horses into Brentford, where he was received with shouts of laughter by Cecil, whose triumph was the more complete, owing to its having latterly been very unexpected.

This adventure afforded the world of fashion great diversion, and many paragraphs for the daily papers. The earl was very much provoked a son of his should have rendered himself so ridiculous; and read the young gentleman a very serious lecture upon the occasion. Cecil took all

he

he said in very good part; and acknowledged that a man of rank might devote his time to a better purpose; still as many of his equals more than kept him in countenance, he did not withdraw his name from the club, nor content himself, as Godfrey did, with driving a curricle; nor was he absolutely deserving of censure for not paying more regard to his father's remonstrances, since his grandfather openly encouraged him to persevere in every reigning folly, as he gloried in having his relationship to this dashing young *jehu* noticed in every paper; and the Brentford race afforded him diversion and conversation for a whole week; he only hoped his dear boy would be careful to avoid running any unnecessary risk, since accidents would befal lords as well as commoners.

CHAP.

CHAP. VII.

WHILE Cecil was thus amusing the town at his expence, and joining very heartily in the laugh against himself, Godfrey having landed in Spain, resolved to seize every opportunity to study the manners and customs of the natives, and to visit every place worthy of notice that fell within his route; and as he greatly regretted being prevented, by the present state of Europe, from making the grand tour, he sincerely rejoiced that the duties of his profession had led to his visiting the peninsula, where he found much to admire, and still more to condemn. In company with some of his brother-officers, he experienced great plea-

sure

sure in visiting the most famous convents, which laid in their road, as the monks made a point of displaying their hospitality to the British; though Godfrey, and many others, feared they were not staunch in the cause they came to support; indeed they had but too much reason to perceive that the natives were by no means united among themselves, nor so grateful as they ought to have been towards their brave defenders: but as we are neither writing an account of Spain, nor of the campaign, suffice it to say, that while the English continued to advance, or remained stationary at Salamanca, and elsewhere, both officers and men were in the highest spirits; and the Spaniards appeared very friendly towards them. But when the brave general, whose memory every good man must revere, found it necessary to retreat, the natives seemed no longer to consider them as friends, as they highly resented their not having performed impossibilities on their

behalf;

behalf; and were no longer inclined to provide for their most pressing wants.

This hostile disposition of the Spaniards rendered the soldiers discontented, and less obedient to their officers, who were no less disappointed at being obliged to retreat before a very superior force; yet such a retreat was, perhaps, more glorious than any victory which could have been achieved, since, more than once, they offered battle to the enemy; and the cavalry were more than once engaged with that of the French; and, as we have before related, during one of their severest skirmishes, lord Angus prevented Lionel Melbourne from falling into the hands of the enemy. Indeed the young earl, owing to an excellent constitution, as yet unimpaired by any youthful excess, and an uncommon flow of spirits, bore the fatigue attendant upon so precipitate a march better than many of his brother-officers; and was repeatedly remarked for his intrepidity and

hearty

hearty zeal in the common cause. He was among the few cavalry who remained to the last at Corunna; and was, as we have already related, foremost in the throng, during that memorable battle.

His brave and discerning commander in chief had marked him well; and the encouraging words he bestowed upon his little troop just before he fell, led to his exposing himself to almost inevitable destruction, since he must have expiated his rashness with his life, if Lionel Melbourne had not most opportunely rushed to his assistance, as having fallen to the ground with his horse, at the very moment his small band of men were making a furious charge, he would have been dispatched before he could have recovered his feet, if Lionel, who had also been dismounted, had not sprang forward, and laid the foremost of his foes lifeless, which enabled the earl to spring upon his feet; and having easily disengaged themselves from two other French soldiers, the friends, for such they

now

now were, without speaking, as every moment was of consequence, hastened to a place of greater security, where lord Angus found, as he expected, his groom and another horse, which he instantly mounted, and in five minutes more he was again among his brave dragoons; but he saw no more of Lionel, as has been before observed, till the cavalry were ordered to embark, when chance placed the friends in the same transport, and thus enabled them to cement an intimacy, which began under such dangerous auspices.

Lionel Melbourne was the second son of a baronet of an ancient family, and who, at this period, held a lucrative post under government; but as his title and the family estate, of course, descended to his eldest son, Lionel, and a younger brother who was in the navy, were to make their way in the world by their merit; and as the much-lamented sir John Moore, the gallant Nelson, and many more, had set them the example, the young cornet told his newly-

newly-acquired friend that he did not despair, as he was resolved strictly to do his duty, and to shed the last drop of his blood in his country's cause.

Godfrey secretly resolved to exert all his own interest in his behalf, and to request his father would second his wishes; and he well knew that the earl would never think he could sufficiently reward his preserver, as he was fully aware, though lord Monmouth never appeared to make any distinction between them, that he was a greater favourite than his brother; but he would have scorned to avail himself of this certainly very excusable partiality, except in behalf of his beloved Cecil, whose cause he had never failed to plead, with almost irresistible eloquence, whenever he had, by his fashionable propensities, incurred the earl's displeasure.

Owing to his having been attended by two very active intelligent servants, lord Angus had preserved the greater part of his wardrobe; though most of his camp

equipage had been left behind. Lionel Melbourne declared he thought himself very fortunate, in not having received even a scratch, though he had been in several rencounters; but as for his baggage, that had fallen, he hoped, to the share of some poor Spaniard; at all events, the greater part of it had been left upon the road. A change of linen was all he had brought away with him, and that was more than many officers in the infantry could boast of possessing; indeed, the fatigue the cavalry had undergone was trifling in comparison to what they had endured.

To this Godfrey readily agreed, gaily observing—"That as it was their first campaign, they had probably made the most of their difficulties."

"To that I readily subscribe," replied Lionel: "a few more such retreats, admitting we are no greater sufferers, will quite break us in, and enable us to consider ourselves as seasoned experienced soldiers."

Their

Their passage was not, however, very pleasant; but at last, to the great joy of all on board, they descried the white cliffs of Albion; and every officer agreed it was the finest prospect they had enjoyed for some time.

As lord Angus had made a friend of every man on board by the time they reached Portsmouth, he and Lionel were among the first who landed at the Point, amidst a concourse of people, who hailed their return with every demonstration of joy, when a gentleman, forcing his way through the crowd, caught lord Angus in his arms, almost before he had recognised him to be his beloved brother. Every eye was turned upon the overjoyed relatives; and those only who were equally in hopes of greeting a son, or brother, could appreciate their rapturous feelings at such a moment. No one broke the general silence that prevailed, till lord Angus, whose glistening eyes spoke volumes to the heart of the

even more-delighted Cecil, inquired for his father, mother, and sister?

"They are all well, and will feel as happy as I do, when they learn that you are once more safe landed in England, and, I hope, unhurt."

"I assure you I feel almost ashamed at having escaped so well—a few scars are the badges of honour in our profession. How long have you been at Portsmouth?"

"A week, minus a few hours; and I have written daily to our anxious father all the news I have been able to pick up since my arrival; but no one who preceded you to England could set my mind perfectly at ease respecting you."

"I chose to be the herald of my own safety, you perceive; so now let us endeavour to get out of this friendly crowd."

"With all my heart," retreating while he spoke; when taking Godfrey's arm, and surveying him very minutely, "Notwithstanding all your boasting, Angus, neither

your

your looks, nor your complexion, have improved since we parted—you appear rather taller; but certainly not near so stout as you were."

"I am a very indifferent sailor; and I have not of late had much time allowed me to devote to my toilette."

"Nor to eating, drinking, or sleeping, I should suppose: however, 'tis only doing double duty in those respects for a short time; so come along. Can you obtain leave of absence? as I shall think every moment an age till we are upon the road to London, since I am now all impatience to present you to my father, mother, and Fanny, who have not, I know, enjoyed much more rest than you have done of late."

"I am no less anxious to see them, you may believe. I make no doubt of obtaining leave to pay them an immediate, even should it be required to be a short visit: but my colonel is not yet landed, I believe—this we shall soon learn."

Having at last made their way through the throng, Godfrey stopped his brother, saying—" Now, Cecil, suffer me to introduce you to a friend, whom I became acquainted with before Corunna, to whom, after all my boasting, I am actually indebted for my existence. Here, Lionel, where are you, man? you did not thus linger behind in time of danger;" explaining in a very few words how bravely he had exposed his own life to preserve his.

Cecil instantly caught the young cornet's hand, swearing—" That he should henceforth rank him among his dearest friends; and I am sure my father and mother will consider you in the same light," he proceeded; " but my actions shall convince you of my heartfelt gratitude; mere words are a very inadequate return for the signal service you have rendered all our family."

Lionel protested he had merely done by lord Angus as he had previously done by him; detailing their first meeting; adding —" I must

—"I must have been a monster of ingratitude, had I not eagerly seized the opportunity chance afforded me of being serviceable to his lordship, who magnifies a very simple action into an heroic achievement."

"Let me tell you, Lionel, as I am very glad to find myself alive, I am the best judge of the merit of your interference, as I set no small value upon my existence, though you make so light of having preserved such a useless being."

"Then I will fancy myself superior to any of the fighting heroes of antiquity, if, by so doing, I can convince your lordship that I set as great a value upon your existence, as either you, or any of your family, can do."

"I promise you, Melbourne, you rank among my heroes," cried Cecil; "so come along with us; as you both seem greatly in need of some good solid food; you require plenty of old English roast beef, to make up for your late watching and fasting.

 I am

I am in possession of an excellent apartment, and as the town will be crowded in another hour, I think we had better make sure of good quarters." So saying, he led the way to the *** inn, which they had scarcely entered, ere Godfrey saw his colonel, and several of the superior officers belonging to his regiment, walking up the street; and as they also entered the inn, Godfrey immediately preferred his petition to the former, who politely assured him that he meant to have *laid his commands* upon him to pay the earl of Monmouth an early visit; and as he presumed he would not spend more than one night at Portsmouth, which might be prudent, as he seemed to require a little rest before he again set out upon his travels, he would trouble him with a letter to one of the great men in power, which he requested he would deliver himself, as he was anxious to have it reach its destination, though he meant to follow it in person before the end of the week. Godfrey, of course,

assured

assured him he might depend upon his paying every attention to his wishes, and retired with Cecil, who had chosen to welcome his brother's friends to England.

Having taken some refreshment, which the young soldiers acknowledged they greatly relished, Cecil advised his brother, Lionel having taken his leave, after promising to return and dine with his friends at six, to lie down for a couple of hours, while he wrote a few lines to the earl and to his grandfather Manby, to let them know he was arrived, as he was quite of lord ***'s opinion, that they had better not start till morning.

"Why it is so late in the day, it may be as well; but instead of lying down, as I never felt less inclined to sleep, I will write to my father and mother, while you are addressing Mr. Manby, who wont be sorry to hear of my arrival, as it will hasten your return to town."

"Oh, I give you my word he has been very anxious for your safety; and as I

should not have been heir either to your title or estates, why I do believe he has even put up prayers for your safe return; nay he has often wondered how my father could make up his mind to part with you; though he always concluded by wisely observing, 'that as the earl did suffer one of his sons to follow so dangerous a profession, he did very right in keeping me out of harm's way."

"I am quite of his opinion, Cecil: that you would have made as good, if not a better officer than me, is very probable; but as I should have been your heir, had a French bullet shortened your days, I fear Mr. Manby would not have believed that I should as sincerely have mourned your death, as I am well assured you would have done mine; so '*whatever is, is right*,' you know; therefore let us ring for writing materials; I will then go to my toilette." Cecil did as he desired; and as neither of them entered into any details, they soon brought their epistles to a conclusion;

clusion; and lord Clairville's valet was ordered to send them off express.

A room adjoining his brother's had been prepared for Godfrey, who soon completed dressing, which greatly improved his appearance, Cecil acknowledged; and as he had lain aside his shabby regimentals for an undressed frock, &c. which was among his baggage, though he did not make a very fashionable appearance, lord Clairville rejoiced to see him once more freed from his fierce-looking cap, long sabre, and other warlike accoutrements, though he agreed they were, when in good preservation, very becoming; but each had so much to re late to the other, that Lionel again joined them before they thought they had spent an hour together. Having, like Cecil, complimented lord Angus upon his improved appearance, he told them that he should also set out for London the next day, as he had found a letter lying at the post-office from his father, who had requested,

quested, admitting he ever received it, well understood, he gaily remarked, that he would proceed immediately to London, as his mother's brother, from whom he had some expectations, was very ill, and very anxious to see him; and as his epistle was written for the inspection of those with whom it rested to grant him leave to obey this summons, they had politely acceded to sir Willoughby's request.

"Then we will all start together," exclaimed the kind-hearted Cecil.

"You can have no objection to travelling with us, Lionel," said lord Angus; "therefore we will not take a denial;" and thus it was finally settled.

Their dinner was soon brought in, though the house was now all bustle and confusion, owing to the number of people who had, and were still landing, and to those who were waiting their arrival.

Cecil, in consequence of the increasing noise, declared he was half inclined to go

one

one stage that night, as they should be more quiet at a country inn, than if they remained where they were.

The waiter respectfully observed, that as his lordship had not bespoke any horses, he was fearful there would be none to be had before morning, so many people were gone forward, some of whom must sleep upon the road.

"Then we will remain where we are," replied lord Clairville. "You must accommodate that gentleman," looking at Melbourne, "as comfortably as you can, as we mean to start immediately after breakfast, that we may reach London early in the evening; so give orders for four horses to be in readiness at nine o'clock, to take us the first stage; or will that be too soon for you, Angus? shall I say ten? as you both seem in great need of a good night's rest."

"We could start at six, if required, brother; very little sleep is sufficient for us soldiers; and I have no fear of being disturbed by any noise, except that of a drum

or

or a cannon; so no matter where I turn in, as I have thought it no small luxury of late to lie down under cover, either upon straw or my cloak; and to save the trouble of dressing again, I seldom took off my clothes."

Lionel spoke to the same effect, declaring he had often, in spite of his utmost endeavours to keep his eyes open, fallen asleep on horseback.

They therefore retired at an early hour; and Cecil declared that a good night's rest had been of much more advantage to his brother, than his toilette of the day before. Lionel had not a change of clothes; and linen and stockings were all he could wear of lord Clairville's, who was much stouter than either of the young soldiers: but all being ready in consequence of the orders given the servants over night, at ten o'clock they left Portsmouth in Cecil's post-chaise, meaning to reach London by a fashionable dinner-hour.

At Cobham, where they arrived about two o'clock, they alighted, to take some

refreshment

refreshment while the horses were changing; and then proceeded to the Castle at Kingston, at the gate of which they drew up about half past four. The moment the carriage stopped, a groom in Cecil's livery opened the chaise-door, saying—"All is ready, my lord."

"That is right," was the reply, jumping out.

"Now for an agreeable surprise," cried lord Angus. "I thought Cecil would chuse to take us into London in style. That is his carriage, I presume," directing Lionel's eyes, as he was alighting, towards a very smart mail or imperial, and four fine horses. "It is hardly light enough to admire your equipage, Cecil. Do you sport the family-arms upon this fashionable machine? or do you wish it to be taken in good earnest for a mail-coach?"

"Make haste and alight," was the reply; "don't think my bays are to be kept in the cold. Here, Richard, where are the great-coats? Will you take your places inside

or out, my lads? I mean to drive you into London in high style."

"Very well; but as it is all but dark, with your leave, we will be inside passengers to-night. Are these the horses that won your Brentford race?"

"They are; and they are not to be matched, with respect to their paces, in all England; this the greatest judges allow." While he was speaking, one of his grooms was helping him on with a box-coat, while another presented him with a large silk handkerchief, and his coachman's hat; and in less than two minutes he was metamorphosed into a good-looking stage coachman.

"How long shall we be ere we reach Hyde Park Corner, coachman?" cried lord Angus, as he was stepping into the vehicle.

"An hour and ten minutes," was the reply; "and if a single horse breaks out of a trot between here and there, I will forfeit five hundred——" springing upon the box at the same moment. His coachman

man jumped up beside him; and two grooms having ascended the seat behind, called out—"All is right!" and off they went, at a much greater rate than they had hitherto come.

MAHARAJA SERFOGI'S THE TANJORE MAHAL.

CHAP. VIII.

DURING their drive, lord Angus amused his friend by entering into various details respecting his brother, whom, he averred, bore a most excellent moral character, notwithstanding he gave into all the reigning follies of fashion; indeed his grandfather's, in many respects, mistaken indulgence, had neither corrupted his heart nor spoiled his temper; and he certainly blended many of the elegant attainments of high life with many

many pursuits which some people condemned as being beneath the dignity of a man of rank; but it was a predominant feature in his character to do what he liked, without caring who was pleased or displeased by his so doing; "yet he is a most dutiful son," he went on, "a most affectionate brother, and a most sincere and zealous friend, when once he takes a liking to any body. Mr. Manby amply supplies all his wants; and his purse and heart are always open to the distresses of the poor; yet such are his principles, that I am well convinced if he found he could not support his present style of life without running into debt, he would instantly relinquish every expensive pursuit, and reduce his expenditure within his income."

While lord Angus was thus evincing the sincerity of his own regard for lord Clairville, they discerned the lights at Hyde-Park turnpike; and though they could not see distinctly, they made no doubt, from the rate they had travelled at, that Cecil

was

was within the given time. They were in hopes he would have pulled up as soon as they were upon the stones, but they were mistaken—" He will not stop," said lord Angus, " till he reaches my father's door, and that will be taking you out of your way."

Lionel assured his friend it was of no consequence: but while he was speaking, lord Clairville turned into Park-lane; and continued at full speed, till he reached Brook-street, where he understood sir Willoughby resided; and having pulled up at his door, he called out—" Here we are !" and in another second, the steps were let down by one of the grooms. " Now, my dear Lionel, you must use your own discretion with respect to letting sir Willoughby know that you are in the land of the living. I will take care and send your baggage when it arrives; so good night;" and without giving Mr. Melbourne time to return his thanks, the moment the door of the carriage was again shut, and his groom had

again

again declared "all was right," he stamped his foot, and off darted his fleet coursers, dashing through Grosvenor-square; but the moment he entered Berkeley-square, he began to blow his horn, which, in conformity to one of the modern improvements, was affixed to the handle of his whip.

The welcome sound electrified every member of the Monmouth family, as every servant participated in the joy and impatience of lord and lady Monmouth. The earl, who was sitting in the drawing-room with the countess and lady Frances, ran down stairs, promising to bring Godfrey up with him in a few seconds; and as the porter had opened the door the moment he heard the horn, several servants were in waiting to open that of the carriage, which they did the moment it stopped.

Breathless with impatience and agitation, Godfrey sprang out; and had scarcely entered the house, ere he was enfolded in his father's arms: for a few seconds words were denied them; but Cecil, who had followed his

his brother in, gave a seasonable check to their over-wrought feelings, by exclaiming —"Now have not I kept my word, sir? I wrote you that you might expect us to a six o'clock dinner; and it now, by my watch, wants seventeen minutes to the time."

"I know we might depend upon you, my dear fellow," said the earl, holding out his right hand, while he grasped lord Angus's with the other; "so come and receive the thanks of lady Monmouth and Fanny, who are all impatience to welcome Godfrey home;" whom he suffered to precede them up stairs, and who was met by his mother and sister in the gallery. Tears of joy for some minutes impeded the utterance of both ladies; but having repeatedly embraced her beloved son, and returned her thanks where they were most due for his safe return, lady Monmouth turned to Cecil, saying—"In no one instance did I ever know you forfeit your word; and how few parents can

can bestow such praise upon a son, who gives into as many juvenile follies as you do; so you perceive that even your praise-worthy punctuality does not blind me to your errors," presenting her cheek, while she kindly pressed his hand. "Indeed I should have been truly miserable had you been delayed upon the road, as I should have felt convinced that you had met with some serious accident."

"Then my punctuality is the less praise-worthy, if it ever has the effect you say it might have had in this instance."

"Do not let my folly induce you to be less tenacious of your word, I entreat," rejoined her ladyship, whose eyes still glistened with the overflowings of her affectionate heart, while her smiles bespoke her satisfaction. "But you look very thin, my dear Angus, though you do not seem in bad health."

"I was never in better health, my dear mother; and you do not know how much better I shall look after dinner; for I am very

very hungry, and have not of late fared very sumptuously: the French did not allow us time to sit long at our meals."

"Well, bless God you are once more amongst us!" said the earl; "as I fear you unavoidably sustained many hardships during your retreat."

"I was so much better off, in many respects, than some of my companions, that I ought to have been the last to repine. I can only grieve that our deceased general's skill and bravery was of so little avail to the Spanish cause; and that our last battle, or, perhaps, I ought to style it victory, cost England so dear."

"How thankful we ought to be," said lady Monmouth, "that we have not also to lament a hero; for such you would have been deemed, my dear Angus, had you fallen during your rencounter with the French."

"Then I think I ought to regret having escaped so well; I may never more have such an opportunity of acquiring immortal fame," not chusing to mention the serious

rious risk he had ran, nor his obligations to Lionel, till his mother was more composed, and less likely to be affected by the recital.

Orders had been given to be denied to every body that evening: and when the table was cleared, and the servants withdrawn, Godfrey entered into various details respecting Spain, and those places he had visited during his stay in that country; wishing he could have made it convenient to have visited Grenada and Seville; carefully avoiding any references likely to damp the joy of his parents. Cecil also amused them with a description of the disembarkation of those troops which had landed at Portsmouth; entering into various ludicrous details respecting the appearance of them, which made lady Frances laugh very heartily, as he vowed even some of the officers resembled Falstaff's ragged recruits.

Having sat still till near half past eight in the eating-room, as the ladies did not feel

feel inclined to withdraw, they heard a carriage stop at the door, just as lady Monmouth was proposing to adjourn to tea.

"Who can that be?" said the earl; "there seemed to me as if there were four horses."

"It is only my barouche, sir," said Cecil, looking at his watch; "so I am off. You can spare me now till eleven in the morning, as I propose sleeping at Woodford, where I hope to be safe landed in about an hour. Mr. Manby generally sits down to supper a little before ten; and I know he will expect an early visit, though I did not pledge my word to pay it this evening."

"Then you will occasion him a very agreeable surprise," replied the earl, who, though by no means partial to the banker, to whom he attributed all Cecil's indiscretions and excesses, never attempted to check their intimacy; indeed he had always appeared to wish that his son should evince a proper degree of respect for him.

"At all events, you shall not leave us till you have had some tea," said lady Monmouth, giving orders in consequence, and leading the way into the drawing-room.

"Surely, Cecil, you don't mean to set off at this time of night, to make room for me?" said lord Angus. "We used to be inhabitants of this house at the same time; and I have not grown more difficult respecting my accommodations. I have already told you——"

"What, has not he told you that he has not been our inmate these four months?" said lady Monmouth. "But perhaps he meant to surprise you, as Mr. Manby did him, by presenting him with one of the best houses in Portman-square, fitted up and furnished in the most superb style: Fanny urges me to borrow it for my next grand gala, it is so superior to ours."

"I only hope you will always consider yourself absolute mistress of it, my dear madam: I had too many things of more importance to say to Godfrey, even to think

think about my new house, which I desire he would henceforth consider as much his home as he does this, else I shall wish my grandfather had been less bountiful."

"Depend upon my never standing upon ceremony where you are master, Cecil. But pray make my best compliments to Mr. and Mrs. Manby, and assure them, that I shall take an early opportunity of inquiring after their health. But do you mean to call here in the morning? or am I to pay my devoirs to you in Portman-square?"

"I shall alight at this door; and we can proceed together to my present abode, where I only want a dashing wife to complete my establishment."

"And has not the old gentleman some rich city heiress in view for you, Cecil? as I have often heard him say he wished you might marry early."

"Oh, he sometimes throws out very broad matrimonial hints; but I am very deaf at present; and I don't think he has

any fair damsel in view; indeed he would wish I should marry a duke's daughter, in preference to a citizen's, since, being conscious of his own deficiency in point of family, he wants me to intermingle the proportion of plebeian blood I inherited from him, with some very noble stream, that might, in time, that is, in some generations, quite overwhelm the *Manby puddle.*"

"I think if he heard your comments upon that said muddy stream," cried the laughing earl, "he would soon curtail your allowance, Cecil Clairville."

"I agree these are points we never debate," was the reply: "but, joking apart, my dear father, my honorary title is such a passport to his esteem, that he thinks it impossible I can do wrong: and he has discovered many perfections in Godfrey Bolinbroke, earl of Angus, viscount Leven, and baron Bolinbroke, that would totally have escaped his notice in Godfrey Clairville."

"Well

"Well then, now do make haste and drink your tea," said the amused lady Monmouth, "as I dread your being robbed."

"Never fear, my good mama, since woe betide my rascals, were they to suffer me to be stopped; but no highwayman will ever attack such a fellow as me."

"I hope you don't mean to drive yourself?" said the earl.

"No, I never do at this hour, except for a wager. My coachman is a capital whip, and I allow him to hold the reins of my grays; so adieu, or I shall have to rouze the old folks out of their first sleep," and away he ran.

"A better-hearted being never existed," said the earl, after he was gone: "his errors are merely those of the head."

"And of the moment," rejoined Godfrey: "I am convinced they will cease with the fashion that gave rise to them."

He then adroitly reverted to their travelling companion, which led to his detailing the serious obligations he was under to Lionel.

Lionel. Lady Monmouth declared she already felt warmly attached to this heroic youth; and the earl, unasked, promised to exert all his influence in his favour.

"Sir Willoughby is not what may be deemed a rich man, I know; and as he has several childrèn, I shall make a point of assisting his wishes, with respect to Lionel."

"You havè anticipated every wish I had formed respecting my brave young friend, upon whom I mean to call to-morrow morning, that I may invite him, in yours and my mother's name, into Berkeley-square, as I am anxious to introduce him to your notice."

"We are no less anxious, assure him, to return him thanks," said lady Monmouth; "so pray ask him if sir Willoughby can spare him to dine with us *en famille.*"

Thus it was settled; and at the joint request of his parents, Godfrey retired about eleven, to endeavour to make up for his late want of rest.

Lord Clairville reached Woodford, as he expected,

expected, just as Mr. and Mrs. Manby were sitting down to supper, not having expected to see their grandson that evening, as they knew, from the last letter he had dispatched from Portsmouth, that he did not expect to reach London till a late dinner on that day, and they did not suppose that he would quit a gay and beloved family circle, to visit them at so late an hour; his arrival was therefore peculiarly gratifying to their feelings, though they affected to chide him for having travelled at such an hour, while they secretly rejoiced at such a convincing proof of his regard: and, much to Cecil's praise, he never took advantage of their avowed attachment for him, to neglect or slight them; nor never, though fully conscious of the old man's failings, treated him with the smallest degree of disrespect: he did not look up to him as he did to his father; but he always displayed the utmost gratitude towards them for their unbounded munificence with respect to his comforts and expenditure: and as he was as

conscious of his own errors as he was of Mr. Manby's prejudices, narrow mind, and other errors of education, he the more readily made allowances for what he would have severely condemned in any other person; and as he knew that they were not of an age to enjoy many pleasures, he made a point of spending a good deal of his time with them.

Having taken his seat at the supper-table, he entered into various details respecting his late jaunt; and dwelled with unfeigned satisfaction upon his brother being returned unhurt, and in very good health, to England. The old people hoped he would never be ordered abroad again; indeed they supposed he hardly wished it himself.

"You never were more mistaken," was the reply: "he longs to pay his respects once more to the *Monsieurs;* as he thinks himself deeply in their debt, for having so kindly, and endeavoured to send him to kingdom come: however, thanks to Lionel Melbourne,

Melbourne, whom he previously prevented from becoming their prisoner, he is once more restored to his family, for how long, I cannot take upon myself to say; but I do not like to meet troubles half way."

"It is very wrong," rejoined the banker. "I only wish you could fix a day to bring the earl down to dine with us; or do you think he will prefer visiting us in Finsbury-square? though we make so little use of that house, I threaten every year to dispose of it."

"I should be sorry you should do that, Mr. Manby, as it has its conveniences; and as a proof, I suppose you mean to sleep there to-morrow night."

"Perhaps you can make it convenient to look in upon us in town to-morrow, my dear Cecil, as I shall be anxious to know when we may expect your brother."

The banker endeavoured to meet the eyes of his wife; and evidently wished that she had not been so communicative.

Cecil was at a loss to guess why he seemed so disconcerted; but made no remarks; as he was convinced that he should learn all he wished to know from the old lady at some more convenient time; though no explanation followed the pause he suffered purposely to take place in the conversation, and then said—" He could not promise to steer his course so very far eastward the next day, as he stood engaged to accompany his brother to the war-office, and to various other places in the vicinity of their joint residences."

" I desire you would not put yourself at all out of the way upon our account," hastily rejoined the banker. " We shall not expect you in the square: you ought to devote to-morrow to lord Angus; perhaps he may not object to accompanying you down here on Sunday; as this is only Tuesday, he will have had full time to visit all his other friends, and to do all the business he can have to transact between this and then; at all events, we shall see you

between this and then: so now, as it has struck twelve, let us to bed; I cannot turn night into day, as you young folks are in the habits of doing."

Cecil instantly seized his night-taper, acknowledging that he was rather in need of a quiet night's rest, as he could not, like his brother, sleep undisturbed by the noise and bustle of a crowded inn; and he then sought his chamber, fully resolved to visit Finsbury-square, as he had more than once remarked an expressive smile upon his grandmother's features, while the banker was endeavouring to prevent his travelling east of Temple-Bar the next day; and during an early breakfast the next morning, no opportunity occurred of questioning his grandmother; he therefore departed at half past nine, fully resolved to discover why, for the first time in his life, Mr. Manby seemed anxious to dispense with his company.

CHAP. IX.

According to his accustomed punctuality, lord Clairville alighted at his father's door a few minutes before eleven. The family were still at breakfast, and he took his seat *sans ceremonie* at the table; and having chatted away half an hour, proposed walking into Portman-square with his brother, from whence he would accompany him to deliver his colonel's letter to the great man in power.

"Agreed," said lord Angus; "we will take Upper Brook-street in our way thither, as I have been obliged to confess to whom I am indebted for the pleasure I now enjoy, since even my dread of agitating my mother

mother could not render me forgetful of the debt I owe Lionel."

"I meant to have proposed calling upon the brave fellow; but much as I think myself obliged to him, I do not think you do yourself justice, Angus, since if you had not first stepped forward to his rescue, he could not have returned you the compliment; not that I mean to lessen the merit of his action; but he certainly would have been very ungrateful, if he had not been equally ready to become your champion."

"I rejoice that you made it so much his duty to step forward in your behalf," rejoined the earl; "but if he is not absolutely otherwise engaged, invite him to dine with us; we shall have no other company."

The young men promised to do so, setting out on foot for Portman-square, as Cecil said, upon the earl's offering lord Angus his carriage to convey him to the war-office, that he would order his chariot when they had walked over his house, and readily

readily promising to chuse what horses his brother required, and to accompany him to his coachmaker's, to give orders respecting the carriages he meant to sport this season, his late ones having been sold when he went abroad.

Godfrey found much to admire in his brother's house, which was fitted up with very great taste, and in the most superb style of fashion, declaring that he gave it the decided preference to his father's; he only wondered Mr. Manby had not fixed his own abode in the more immediate vicinity of this elegant mansion.

" He feels himself much more at home in Finsbury-square, where, by the way, he is very magnificently lodged. You never visited him in town, Godfrey; can you make it convenient to accompany me so far eastward to-day? there is some mystery attending his dining and sleeping in London, that I am very anxious to fathom, because he seems very anxious to keep me in the dark."

" You

"You are a privileged personage; but may not he think me more actuated by impertinent curiosity, than a wish to see him, should I agree to your wishes?"

"Nonsense! I know he will be highly gratified by so early a visit; and he must affect to be very happy to see me; so make no objections, if you love me."

"You have effectually prevented me from starting any;" and as the chariot was in waiting, they proceeded first into Brook-street.

Lionel was at home, in consequence, he told them, of having been detained by his tailor, who had just left the house, "and till he brought home this suit," he went on, "I could not shew my face without the door, as I could not force myself into any of the clothes I left behind me. Sir Willoughby is just gone to his office; he will be very sorry when he learns how I have been favoured; but I meant to have made my inquiries in Berkeley-square in the course of the morning, as to-morrow

I start

I start at daybreak for my uncle's seat in Essex, where my mother and sister now are, nursing the good old soul, who means, I understand, to make me his heir, that I may transmit his name to posterity; however, joking apart, I hope he will recover, as he has been a very kind friend to me and Charles."

"Can you oblige us with your company to dinner in Berkeley-square?" asked lord Angus; "my father and mother are very anxious to be introduced to the preserver of their son."

"I shall be proud of being introduced to them as his friend, as it may afford me an opportunity of telling them how I came to have it in my power to assist your lordship, and as I know my father dines from home; my elder brother is not in town; he did not feel so very anxious to congratulate me upon my safe return, as lord Clairville did to welcome you."

"Perhaps he is not such an idle fellow as I am, Lionel, nor so much his own master;

ter; besides, Godfrey and I were more than brothers; even in childhood we were friends; and though we have grown up with '*two seeming bodies, we have but one heart,*' and our minds have long been in as strict unison."

"May they ever continue so! and may I be henceforth the friend of both!"

"We admit you into our union," cried the laughing Godfrey; "so adieu till six o'clock, when we shall expect to see you in Berkeley-square, as we are going to Whitehall, and from thence to Finsbury-square."

Lionel saw them to the chariot, which was now ordered to Whitehall, where, it may be supposed, the young soldier met with a very polite reception. His name had been mentioned in many of the dispatches; and the letter he was the bearer of contained a further eulogium of his bravery, skill, and zeal in the service; and he was assured that he might look forward to immediate and future promotion. Lord

Angus

Angus did not suffer so favourable an opportunity to mention Lionel Melbourne to escape him; and had the satisfaction to perceive that what he urged in his behalf had due weight with the great man, who politely promised to attend to his kind recommendation of the young cornet, whose services had not been overlooked by their late lamented commander. Having thus paid what Godfrey deemed a necessary devoir, as a preliminary step towards his own and Lionel's promotion, he accompanied his brother to Mr. Manby's.

"I cannot conceive why my grandmother talked of their sleeping in town, as they receive all their ceremonious guests at Woodford; indeed they now hardly ever, except by special invitation, even dine in London; and I do not think they are going out, else I should not have been surprised at their sleeping in the square; as the old gentleman does not think it safe to travel near London after dark, because some thirty years ago he was stopped, I

hardly

hardly know where, but it occasioned him such a panic, he has never overcome his dread of a similar rencounter."

"A well-armed highwayman is no despicable foe," rejoined lord Angus; "and as fighting never was the old gentleman's trade, he is very excusable in avoiding such meetings. I wonder Mrs. Manby was not more explicit with you; I mean no offence to her husband; but I think the old lady is much the most amiable character."

"Ten to one; she received a much better education, is of a much better family, which has led to her having much the most liberal notions; indeed, but for her, I much doubt whether even my grandfather's riches would have procured him any respect, as he would have been deemed, and with justice, an overbearing, purse-proud, mean fellow; but owing to her example and persuasion, he now does many generous actions; and I know I am indebted for much of his kindness towards me to my grandmother; but even her intercession would

would not have proved of much avail, if he had not hoped to vex my father by his amazing liberality towards me; therefore, though I benefit by his spite, his generosity does not increase my respect for him."

"Come, come, whatever might have been his primary motives for noticing you, I dare believe he is now solely actuated by his regard for you."

"You are a kind advocate, Angus; but there's the mansion we are going to visit;" this was said as they were turning into the square; and at the moment the coachman was drawing up to the door, they saw a man walking up the steps with a covered tray upon his head, upon one end of which was painted "Birch." "Why what can be going forward?" cried lord Clairville; "I am of opinion the old gentleman has a city dinner; yet why, in that case, was not I invited to join the party? as he has always appeared proud of having his titled grandson present upon such occasions."

"Do

"Do not let us go in," said Godfrey; "suffer me to leave my compliments with the servants."

"How can you be so absurd? would you stand upon the same ceremony here, I should have done with the late lord Inverness? it would be misunderstood, and misconstrued into a slight; besides, I know my grandmother will be delighted to see us;" this was said while the steps of the chariot were being let down. Lord Angus therefore followed his brother into the hall. As the door had been opened for Mr. Birch's man before the footman could reach the knocker, the party above were not aware of the arrival of these unexpected visitors.

Cecil made the footman a sign not to announce them, merely saying—"I suppose Mr. and Mrs. Manby are in the drawing-room?"

"They are, my lord, with company from the country, as I suppose you have heard."

Cecil made no reply; but seizing Godfrey's arm, led him up stairs, whispering—

"I begin

"I begin to smell a rat; I know the old man received a letter from a country-cousin about a fortnight ago, which announced his intention of visiting London, for the first time in his life, and, of course, his dear relative, who was so little flattered by such a mark of respect, that he said he should not be at home to the fellow; indeed, like many more who have risen in the world, he is not very fond of talking of his family; so now for one of my agreeable surprises, hey, Godfrey," throwing open the drawing-room door, and exclaiming—"Here is my brother, sound wind and limb, come to make his personal inquiries after your health," when upon perceiving four strangers seated near the fire, he paused with well-affected surprise, though their appearance did strike him as very singular; adding, "I really beg pardon, sir, for my unceremonious *entrée*; the house-door happening to be open when we alighted, I ran forward, as usual, without attending to what your servant said."

"No

"No apologies are requisite, my dear Cecil," said the banker, who, like the rest of the party, had started upon his feet the moment he caught sight of his grandson. "Lord Angus, I sincerely rejoice to see you once more in England," advancing towards the really-amazed Godfrey, who certainly little expected to have met, what he deemed, so queer a party familiarly seated in Mr. Manby's drawing-room; as his surprise was very visible in his fine expressive countenance, the banker's confusion as visibly increased, while repeating his welcomes, and thanking him for so kind a mark of his attention to him and Mrs. Manby, which at any other time would have been highly flattering to the banker.

The highly-amused Cecil was meanwhile paying his respects to his grandmother, whose eyes evinced her satisfaction at his having made his appearance, and particularly with the young earl, so apropos—"Pray resume your seats, gentlemen," said Cecil, turning from Mrs. Manby. "Grandmama,

mama, don't let us keep that lady standing. My dear sir," addressing the confused and provoked banker, "why don't you introduce my brother and me to this good company?"

"Because, though it is a liberty I may feel warranted in taking with you, my dear Cecil, I should be sorry to make what might be deemed an improper return for the earl's condescension. This good man is the only son of a sister of mine; but we move in such different spheres, and live at such a distance, that we never were in each other's company, till he paid me a visit at Woodford three days ago; he came up to town with his daughter, whom he has very lately married to that gentleman, who is a native and a resident in London."

"Why then, in fact, these are my cousins, as well as yours," interrupted the highly-diverted Cecil. "Oh, I must wish the bride and bridegroom joy, and salute the lady." Mr. and Mrs. Bolton were therefore, much against the old gentleman's

inclination,

inclination, introduced to lord Clairville and his brother; and the bride received the usual salute from each. But to account, in some degree, for the visible amazement of lord Angus upon entering the room, it may, before we proceed, be necessary to describe these country cousins.

The banker's nephew, farmer Webster, was just turned of fifty; but owing to his having made very free with a very good constitution, he looked full ten years older; he was rather above the middle size, and stout in proportion; his face, which was not devoid of intelligence, denoted that he sacrificed very freely to the jolly god; he was dressed in a light-coloured grey coat, black spotted shag waistcoat, brown plush small-clothes, and high-topped boots: his hair, which was very grey, seemed as if it had been cut by his shepherd, to the shape of a wooden bowl: altogether, lord Angus thought he had never seen so queer a figure; nor did he

wonder at the banker's not being proud of the relationship.

Mrs. Bolton seemed about three-and-twenty, and was what Tony Lumpkin would have deemed a bouncing beauty, that is, she was very stout, though not very short; had a very good complexion, and a good-humoured countenance, which rather pre-possessed both the young peers in her favour; her manners were rustic and awkward in the extreme; but she seemed wholly devoid of affectation; and made both the young men a very low curtsey in return for their compliment, while her no less gratified father exclaimed—" Well, Sue! you may now boast of what few brides, in your humble line of life, have had in their power to do, since you have been saluted by three lords; for you must know, good folks, that on the very day she was married, who should ride up to my door but lord Riversdale, of whom I rent two hundred and twelve acres of land; I inherited about half as many, and a special old-fashioned

fashioned farm-house, from my father; and as my estate is a freehold, why it gives me a vote for the county; but, as I was saying, the hounds had passed close to the back of my house; they had had a devilish hard run, and his lordship being very dry, called to taste my home-brewed—deuced good stuff—a pint is worth a gallon of your London porter; but finding us all dizened out in our church-going things, he said 'he supposed we were going out; so he would not alight, not to detain us;' so I up and told him what sport we had been at that morning; with that he sprung from his horse, and swore, for he is a hearty blade, 'that he would wish the bride and bridegroom joy;' and I should not wonder if he were to send them a wedding present, for he is a very spirited man; though, I must say, he has been raising us deucedly of late; therefore, what with one thing and another, we poor farmers cannot live as we used to do; however, great folks must keep up a state, and they find the times as

hard

hard as we do; and lord Riversdale is really a hearty man; I have more than once dined at his table; he can drink his bottle with the best of them——"

Not knowing but the farmer might hold forth in his landlord's praise for another half hour, Cecil interrupted his panegyric, by observing—"That lord Riversdale bore a most excellent character among his equals;" adding, "and as I wish to convince you that I am no less partial to the yeomanry of Great Britain, nor to the bottle, you, and all the present company, if not otherwise engaged, must do me the pleasure to dine with me to-morrow in Portman-square."

"Ecod, if I were engaged to dine with my lord mayor," cried the delighted farmer, "I would disappoint him, sooner than not wait on your lordship: to be sure, we were to have dined at a friend's of my son-in-law, but that's neither here nor there; next day will serve his turn; and if what he has laid in won't keep till then, we must

take

take pot-luck; so I will be answerable for myself, my son Bolton, Sukey, and Tom: make your bow to his lordship, boy. Why Bolton, where's your tongue, man? it ran glib enough when you were making love to Sukey; your father would not have sat mum-chance as you do."

The bridegroom, whose confusion was not lessened by his father-in-law's reproaches for his silence, bowed very respectfully, and then said—"I have not the presumption, sir, to fancy myself included in lord Clairville's invitation: your relationship to Mr. Manby——"

"My relationship to my good uncle there," interrupted the farmer; "and a'nt you, now you have married my Sue, also his relation? and did not my lord say all the present company, as plain as he could speak?"

"And I repeat my invitation to you in particular, Mr. Bolton," said Cecil, who was rather prejudiced in the bridegroom's

 favour,

favour, in consequence of his speech. "My dear sir," turning to Mr. Manby, "you and my dear grandmother will, I hope, favour me with your presence, since I trust you will believe that any relation of yours must be welcome guests in Portman-square."

Never had Mr. Manby felt more confused and perplexed; but not conceiving, as was really the case, that his grandson was enjoying his present mortification, and anticipating with delight that he had in store for him, he said—"He could not put a negative upon any proposal of his dear Cecil's; though he did not, when he left Woodford, propose spending more than one night in town."

"I like to vary the scene," said the highly-amused Mrs. Manby, who rather enjoyed her husband's relations being introduced to their grandson, as he still often ventured to affirm that their daughter might have looked even higher than the

earl

earl of Monmouth, admitting his son-in-law had borne that title when he married her.

"Tom," cried the elated farmer, addressing a lad about eighteen, whose figure and manners were by no means calculated for the party chance had thrown him among, "what are you staring at, boy? There's no getting him along the streets, my lord; there's so much to be seen in this huge town, he is mightily taken with all he meets with; he does not like to be a farmer forsooth; I dare say he would like to follow the same trade as your lordship does, if he had but the tools; however, I brought him up with me, to see what I can do to please his fancy, as I have plenty of them at home still; and the sooner I can put them in the way to make their fortunes, the better. Tom is not the eldest—James was born before him, and he is to tread in my shoes."

"How many children do you say you have?" asked the more-and-more discon-

certed Mr. Manby, who was very anxious to stop his prating.

"Better than nine, uncle."

The banker paused; and his nephew chuckled upon perceiving he had puzzled him, as he now angrily repeated—"Better than nine! what an absurd answer to my question! why not have said at once that you had half a score?"

The farmer laughed aloud—"Why pray, uncle, do you think ten would be better than nine? faith I do not: the fact is, I have eight, and I have enough to do to provide for them as I wish."

The brothers joined in the farmer's mirth, being equally diverted by this curious observation, and by Mr. Manby's visible anger—their good humour encouraged Webster to proceed, unawed by his uncle's frowns.

"Tom was all agog to come to London, because, as he observed, and the boy's a cute one, that uncle there had been very lucky,

lucky, and why might not he? and I gave him credit for the thought; he has had as good an education as many who have travelled upwards before him; he writes a good bold hand, and he can cast accounts with any lad of his inches; so if he does not make his way in the world, why it must be through mere sheepishness."

"I am sure he does not take after his father, if such are your fears, Mr. Webster," cried the now almost enraged banker, whose choler had been imperceptibly rising during the farmer's last speech; "and I repeat what I have told you before, that your son is not competent to fulfil the mere routine duty of a mere tradesman's shopman, much less to become a merchant's or a banker's clerk; but as you have brought him up, and as he is a descendant of my late sister, I will see whether I can do any thing likely to bring him forward in the world."

"Well, sir, you have carved so well for

yourself, God forbid I should interfere to mar your kind intentions towards my son! you know what's what better than many men, or else it would be strange, for I take it you are hard upon fourscore: all I say is, that there are few better scholars than Tom in Northumberland."

"Then there he had better have remained, since there his talents might have brought him forward."

"Why if he had, like my grandfather and your father, had a turn for the sea, I would not have balked his fancy; for the old gentleman left a very good name behind him, and was reckoned one of the best sailors belonging to the port of Shields; but as he was bred and born in an inland village, as one may say, when compared to Newcastle, why he did not like to plough the ocean; however, as you are pleased to promise to put him in Fortune's way, uncle, why who knows whether he may not, like you, ride in his own coach before

before he dies, and have a lord for a grandson."

This last speech put the finishing stroke to the banker's patience; but unwilling to give way to the rage his nephew's speech had excited, he merely said—"I presume, lord Angus, you have many calls upon your time just now, therefore let me entreat you will not waste any more in listening to the praises of Mr. Webster junior; may I therefore request you would accompany lord Clairville and me into the adjoining apartment, as I wish, uninterrupted, to return you my thanks for this kind and early visit. Mrs. Manby, you will attend to our guests meanwhile," opening the door leading into the adjoining drawing-room.

"You will remember your to-morrow's engagement, gentlemen," said Cecil, as he followed his brother out; "I dine at seven; and, for the present, I wish you a good morning." Lord Angus had merely bowed in silence as he left the room.

No sooner had the banker closed the

door, than taking a hand of each, he declared—"He had never felt so provoked and ashamed, as during the last hour, though these low people were almost beneath his contempt; but their assurance, not to give it a harsher name, far outstripped his expectations. Webster is certainly my relation, and, as such, he fancies himself authorized to treat me with the grossest familiarity: out of respect to my sister's memory, I resolved to give him a dinner, and to do something for his son, but never intended to expose you, my dear Cecil, to so unpleasant a rencounter, much less to afford them a pretence to torment you in Portman-square; but I will prevent their benefiting by your polite invitation, as they are by no means proper guests for you to receive."

"Their relationship to you, sir, must plead their excuse for behaviour I dare believe lord Chesterfield would have condemned; but form and ceremony are, you know, banished the higher circles; and the

yeomanry

yeomanry are in many parts of England admitted to their landlord's table. Mr. Webster appears to me an original, and I like to study such characters; besides, were you to put a stop to their visiting me, they would report that I was ashamed of your connexions, and would only associate with my father's family; so I must insist upon your suffering matters to take their course; you and my grandmother will join the party; I shall invite no other company; and I dare say we shall be highly amused by the farmer's shrewd remarks."

The banker, as lord Clairville hoped and expected, felt his reference to his father's family; but was sufficiently his grandson's dupe, to fancy that he had merely invited this queer party out of respect to him; and as there was to be no other company, he agreed, since matters had gone so far, it might be as well to suffer Webster to bring his children into Portman-square.

"Pray is Bolton in trade?" asked lord Clairville.

"So

"So I understand; he is in partnership with his father, a chemist, druggist, and surgeon, Webster tells me; but he makes such blunders, I should not wonder the fellow was some quack, or advertising doctor; his father is a Northumberland man; and this dapper spark went down to visit some relations, farmers, like my hopeful nephew, and there he became acquainted with Miss Sukey, and, I suppose, fell in love with the five hundred pounds her boasting father promised to give her on her wedding-day; for he is, what he terms, before-hand in the world, and that makes him so impudent; and yet he wants me to provide for master Tom, who shall not remain in London, that I am resolved, if it costs me a thousand pounds to provide for him elsewhere; fortunately, an opportunity has occurred that will enable me, at no great expence, to send the boy out to the East Indies in an inferior department; he may rise by his great merit and superior talents at calculation; I have not yet mentioned the

the matter to his booby father; indeed I only learnt this morning from my head clerk that the young fellow who was going out has declined the appointment, in consequence of having come into a fortune."

"I make no doubt of Mr. Webster accepting the offer, particularly if you hint *my cousin Tom* may chance to return a nabob; and, upon the whole, I think you have been very fortunate, in not having been sooner petitioned to put some of the family in the road to fortune."

"I never was in habits of intimacy or correspondence with Webster the father; my sister married very much beneath herself, and as the fellow was what is reckoned rich for his rank in life, I never troubled my head about her son; she had no more children, which I now think a very fortunate circumstance, as I might have had many more such plagues; of course, this rustic had heard of his rich uncle, therefore I only wonder, as you say, I was not

sooner

sooner applied to in behalf of his hopeful progeny; but I prudently put such a check upon an indirect application of my sister's, that I fancy I damped his father's hopes of making him a great man at my expence. I wish this Bolton had directed his steps any other way, since, but for this wedding in the family, I do not think Webster would ever have travelled so far from home; but as soon as he was in London, he became all anxiety to see his rich uncle, of whom, no doubt, he boasted enough to young Bolton; it was no difficult matter to find me out, and three days ago he alighted from the Woodford stage at my door; and as he had, I found, blazoned our relationship to every soul he knew, little as I was pleased with him, I invited him, Bolton, his wife, and Tom, to dine with me to-day, little supposing that it would lead the way to his visiting Portman-square. But I hear the clock striking four, at which hour we are to dine; and I cannot ask lord Angus,

gus, whose pardon I have to entreat for entering upon such a subject in his hearing, to sit down with such a party."

"We are both positively engaged to dine in Berkeley-square," replied Cecil, "else I dare say Godfrey would have made no more scruple of sitting down with any of your relations, than I shall do; so adieu till to-morrow; give my love to grandmama;" departing with his scarcely less amused brother, who well knew that the banker had affected to despise his father's alliance, although of so very plebeian a family himself.

CHAP. X.

THE brothers gave a free loose to their mirth as soon as they drove from the door, Cecil declaring he would not have missed the preceding scene for any money.— "Never," he went on, "did I see the poor old gentleman so completely mortified; indeed Webster, who, with all his rusticity, is no fool, seemed to enjoy tormenting him, whether purposely or not, I cannot as yet resolve: but what think you of my grandfather's objecting to our father's family? Oh, how he is already lamenting your having seen these polished relatives! he might have hoped that shame would have induced me to have sunk the scene upon

upon my father; but you, he must suppose, will enter into every mortifying detail respecting *cousin Tom, and bouncing Sukey*: altogether, I never was more amused; and remember you dine with me to-morrow, Godfrey; I shall not half enjoy the treat I have in store, if I have not you to compare notes with."

"I have no objection to joining the party; though, I think, even you will have had enough of the farmer, before you get rid of him; indeed, in your place, I don't know whether my love of fun would have induced me to ask such a party to my house."

"I did it as much to plague my grand-father, as to gratify a whim of my own. You are more apt to think before you either speak or act than ever I was, and I dare say, were it to be generally known, I might be very much condemned; but you know it is the fashion of the day to associate with stage-coachmen, grooms, and pugilists;

pugilists; and I think Webster will prove even more amusing than many of them. If you had really rather not join the party, I will let you off—you sha'nt punish yourself to oblige me."

"I should consider it as no punishment to meet a much more disagreeable party at your house; and I dare say I shall be amused, if not greatly edified, by the farmer's remarks; but I shall pity Mr. Manby; for his sake, I wish you had not thus contrived to catch him in his own toils."

"That's what I glory in; had he been a kind brother, Webster might now have been rising in his house; a good education might have rendered him a very different character; but as he was suffered to toil on unnoticed by so rich a relation, I say my grandfather ought to pay the full penalty of his want of feeling; and I know you are of the same opinion; but you never will speak your mind freely respecting the old man, because he is my grandfather."

"As

"As such, I shall ever respect him; so adieu for the present, as you don't mean to alight, I presume."

"No, I shall hasten home to dress *au revoir.*" And while both the young gentlemen are at their toilettes, we will return into Finsbury-square.

The banker having returned to his party, Mr. Webster swore—"That lord Clairville was the most free, well-bespoken lord he had ever stumbled upon; and he had seen a few in his time at the election for the county, and at lord Riversdale's—I like him better than his brother, who is the greatest man of the two, aunt has been telling me: but though he seems very free from pride, that I will say of him, he don't seem to have half so much spunk in him—he seemed dashed like when he came in."

"Who knows but he might," replied the banker, "to find himself in such great company."

"Well, you may laugh if you please, uncle; but lord Clairville for my money; though

though it might be as well for some folks, if he was less nearly related to you; and he is not a soldier, like his brother, and seems too hearty to give one a chance, hey, uncle."

"Depend upon it you would reap no benefit from his death, Mr. Webster; but I hope to see him the father of many children before I die."

"Well, uncle, I meant no harm, for I have taken a great liking to him; and I dare swear that he will set your hoards into circulation when he has the fingering of them, for, by all accounts, you have feathered your nest charmingly. Messrs. *** of Newcastle told me long ago, that you were one of the richest men in London; they would not believe I was your only sister's son; and when I swore I was, they were sure it was all my own fault I was not forwarder in the world; but, as I told them, I did not know what you might think of *brag*, but I knew that you could *hold fast;* however, that is neither here nor there;

there; you have worked hard for your money, and have a right to do as you like with it; and perhaps your son-in-law, though he is a lord, may not have wherewithal to support his title, for I have known many titled folks who have not known which way to turn for a few pounds, and I will warrant me you have got a fine number of their sheepskins in pawn, and there is no better security."

"I would advise you, Mr. Webster, to talk more respectfully of your superiors, at least in my hearing: as for my son-in-law, the earl of Monmouth, he is one of the first, as well as richest peers in England, and both his sons are most amply provided for, independent of their claims upon him: lord Clairville will be my heir, and the earl of Angus has inherited the second title and the great estates of his maternal grandfather."

"Then why, uncle, were you so angry, as report says, with your daughter for mar-

rying

rying so great a man, for I have heard that you never forgave her, and that you have never been cater-cousins with my lord? so I thought he was poor, and that you thought it right to keep aloof, seeing as how you an't fond of putting the ready into circulation."

To the banker's great relief, he was spared a reply, by dinner being announced, and he adjourned with his guests into the eating-room.

The farmer having been helped to some of Mr. Birch's famous mock-turtle soup, swore—" There were some deuced good cooks in London; though the Northumberland beef and mutton was far superior to any he had tasted in town; it looked well to the eye, but it neither eat so sweet, nor was so full of gravy; the poor beasts were over driven and heated before they were killed: but this soup is fit for an emperor," he went on: " I dare say Bony does not come in for any thing half so good;

good; for they tell me the French make soup of frogs—I wonder whether they do eat such vermin?"

"I cannot inform you, sir," replied the banker; "and if you are very curious to know, you had better go and see: I can only say I am glad you like my soup, as I always wish my guests should make a good dinner, when they visit me here or at Woodford."

"Then you need not fear my doing so, uncle; and if you will favour me with a visit next summer, I will set you down to some mutton, that you shall not know from venison; hey, Bolton, was not the last haunch you eat at my house super-excellent?"

"It was very fine, sir."

"Yes, yes, my dame can dress a plain dinner with any body; and her currant-jelly is super-excellent; we always eat our mutton, uncle, venison fashion. I only wish my old woman had come to town with me—how she would have licked her

trap at this soup! I shall ask your cook to give me the receipt for her, that we may cut out all our neighbours next Christmas. I shall be obliged to you, uncle, for another ladle-full," holding out his plate, in defiance of the attending servants attempts to relieve him from the trouble.

Shocked at being addressed by such a rustic as uncle, even before his suite, the banker was unable to relish either soup or any other dainty upon the table, which induced Webster to observe—"See what it is to be able to sit down to such good things every day; rich folks cannot relish them; they become, like my pigs, dainty nice; now when they are first put up to feed, they greedily devour the very worst beans, but by degrees, one is obliged to pamper their appetites, till the finest pease are hardly good enough for the toads."

"A very judicious and polite comparison," said the banker, in a sarcastic tone. "Pray when you dine with lord Riversdale, do you compare him to your pigs?"

"Lord,

" Lord, uncle, how could you suppose I meant to compare you, or any other Christian, to such beasts? I had no such intention, I give you my word, else, I think, it might be truly said, that I had no more manners than my hogs."

Mrs. Manby, who really enjoyed his absurdities, was convinced that Mr. Manby had misunderstood him; and the servants composed their countenances sufficiently to remove the first course.

Webster, by way of saving the good lady trouble, helped himself to what he called a *tater*, saying—" He was very partial to good *taters*;" but having tasted this one, he shoved the remainder on one side, and seemed dubious whether he should not spit out the piece he retained in his mouth.

Mrs. Manby told him—" The London potatoes were not so fine as those to which he had doubtless been accustomed."

" That is very true, madam, for my ploughmen would turn up their noses at these, I am sure; I should be obliged to

throw them to my pigs. But, talking of *taters*; I was once fool enough to try to fatten hogs with them; one of my neighbours had read in some of those new books upon farming, that it was a very cheap method, so I must make the experiment, and put up eight or nine porkers, whom I began to feed with my rubbishing *taters;* but at the end of a week, the poor things not only nestled together, but laid all of heaps, one upon t'other for warmth; I flogged them ten times a-day to separate them; but all would not do; so I e'en gave them beans, and this soon had the desired effect; and thus ended my experiment; and when I adopt any more such new-fangled notions, why they shall tell me of it."

"I think it very possible your experiment failed from your not attending to the instructions given in the book you read."

"I improved upon the notion, uncle, for I boiled the *taters*."

"That might render them less nourishing; but I must request to drop the subject,

ject, as I am not competent to argue with you respecting the treatment of pigs."

"Very true, uncle; every man to his calling; you can turn money into more; but you would be sadly at a loss how to make any by farming."

To Mr. Manby's great relief, the cloth was at last drawn; and the servants retired, as they had all had the utmost difficulty to suppress their mirth. The bridegroom had seldom spoke, but what he did say was respectful to his entertainer, and rather apropos; and his wife, very properly, never opened her mouth, but to answer the questions which were addressed to her. Nor did Tom annoy the banker by his prate, as he sat with his mouth half open, greedily swallowing all his father said, but merely grinned his applause.

Having drank a few glasses of wine—"Well, uncle," said the farmer, "what say you, do you ever smoke in London? at home I always smoke my pipe after a good dinner—I think it does me good."

"In genteel company, Mr. Webster, smoking has been long since abolished; but rather than you should be deprived of your favourite amusement, I will order pipes and tobacco into the back parlour."

"What, for me to smoke alone! no, that will not suit me neither; no, no, I can do without it for once in a way, since it a'nt the fashion; so what say you, uncle, to giving me your receipt for making money? as your business is like coining, I have been told."

"I am afraid you are too old to learn a new trade; you might not succeed better than you did with your pigs; so suppose I tell you what I mean to do for your son Tom, as it will be his own fault, when I have put him in the way, if he does not make a fortune."

"Then I will be answerable for his doing so; and if he should become a rich man, he will not forget his brothers and sisters."

"I dare say he will be vastly generous; but

but he will do well to recollect that charity begins at home."

"True, uncle; and I know, under so good a master, he will learn to take care of the main chance."

"I am not going to take him into my house, Mr. Webster; but an opportunity has offered, which will enable me to place him in the way to preferment. Though you are not inclined to be a sailor, Thomas, I presume you would have no objection to a sea voyage?"

"That's as it might happen, sir; I b'ant vast fond of the sea; but if I could make more money by going abroad than by staying at home, why I should not so much mind a voyage by sea for once in a way."

"I do not mean to force you on board ship, young fellow; but not to keep you in suspense, I have an opportunity of sending you out to India in a civil capacity, that is, you are not going out as a sailor, or a soldier, in the company's service, but as a sort of clerk, or factor; and let me

tell you, many gentleman's son would rejoice at having a similar offer, since you may chance to return, in due course of time, a nabob."

"Ecod! Tom, if you don't down of your marrowbones, and thank God for having met with such a friend, you are no son of mine—a nabob! did you hear that, boy? and don't you know that sir Benjamin Hilton, our rich country neighbour, is what they call a nabob, because he made his fortune in *Ingee?* and he might be a lord any day, his steward says, as gold will buy titles, as well as meat and drink: so when is the lad to go, uncle?"

"The ship he is to sail in is now in the River Thames, and she will drop down to Gravesend in the course of a few days; but there will be sufficient time to make every necessary purchase for his voyage; every thing he will want is to be met with ready made in London; and I will take care that he shall be handsomely provided with clothes and other requisites, as I should not

chuse

chuse that a person whom I shall be known to patronize should make a shabby appearance; I will expend five hundred pounds upon him; if he can make less do, he may carry the remainder in his pocket; and in addition to his salary, which will not be very large at first, I will allow him a couple of hundred a-year while I live; and if he does but take proper care, and pays due attention to his superiors in office, he may, as I said before, return a nabob."

The farmer already saw him one, in imagination, and high sheriff for the county of Northumberland; nor was Tom less sanguine in his expectations. Webster was profuse in his thanks to his dear uncle, and very eloquent in praise of his son, who, he prognosticated, would do great honour to his recommendation—" But would there be time for him to go down to Barnsley, to take leave of his mother, and brothers, and sisters?"

" I would not have him think of such a thing," replied the banker; " he might

 lose

lose his passage by so doing; besides, it would only afflict your wife, and could not answer any one good purpose; you brought him up to town in hopes of leaving him behind you, therefore she will not expect to see him again in haste."

Bolton seconded the banker very ably, being nearly as anxious to get rid of his cute brother. And Tom was so fearful any thing should occur to mar his bright prospects, that he declared his mother had best not know any thing about the matter, till he was sailed. And thus it was finally settled. The India voyage afforded the whole party ample subject for conversation during the evening.

Mr. Manby promised to get a friend to make out an inventory of what the young man would want, which he would send to Mr. Bolton's by a person in his employ, who would accompany them to the proper places to make the necessary purchases, and would let them know when it would be proper for the young man to attend at the

the India House, and when he would be required to go on board; and most willingly would he have added another hundred pounds to his present, if he could by that means have cut with the whole party for ever.

CHAP. XI.

Lord Angus, notwithstanding his tailor had sent home, during his absence, a second change of clothes, soon completed his toilet. The earl was therefore alone in the drawing-room when he made his appearance there, and, of course, inquired whether Mr. Melbourne was at home when they called in Brook-street? and whether he had agreed to dine with them?

Godfrey repeated what had passed between Lionel and them; and then proceeded to relate how flattering a reception he had met with at the war-office—"We then proceeded into Finsbury-square," he went on, "having plenty of time to spare, and my brother was rather anxious to see Mrs. Manby; nor was I sorry so fair an opportunity occurred of paying the banker an early visit, though I believe the old gentleman would readily have dispensed with my courtesy, since he was surrounded by country relations, of whom he seemed most heartily ashamed, and who had rather forced themselves upon him."

"Though I married his daughter, I do not even now know any of his relations: he is a native of Northumberland, I have heard, and his father was master of a ship in the Baltic trade, belonging to the port of Shields; but even my late wife never knew whether he had any relatives living: he had a sister; but, if I remember right, she was dead when I married."

"This party consisted of her son, if I understood right, his son and daughter, and the husband of the latter; the father's name is Webster; the daughter has married a Mr. Bolton; and the junior Webster is come to London to make, or seek, his fortune. The whole party, Bolton excepted, are absolute rustics; and they treat the banker with a degree of familiarity that he can very ill brook; indeed I believe he never was more mortified, than when obliged, in consequence of Cecil's request, to introduce us to this delectable set."

"And Cecil, I am sure, enjoyed tormenting the old man, who has never rightly understood his character, for he is neither to be bribed nor flattered into any measure of which his heart disapproves. I have never interfered between them, though I have deeply regretted Mr. Manby's absurd profusion, since it has certainly led to Clairville's becoming a very dissipated, if not an immoral character; indeed he seems to set the opinion of the world at nought,

whenever

whenever it clashes with his own ideas of enjoyment. He has never openly braved my authority, I agree; but he is no longer of an age to be subjected to parental controul; and when he might have been guided by my advice, Manby encouraged him in every fashionable folly, laughed at all his absurdities, and sanctioned his extravagance, by his ill-judged liberality. I can suppose he wished you both anywhere but in Finsbury-square to-day. How did Cecil behave to his guests?"

"With his accustomed cordiality. They are not to blame, as he justly observes, for their ignorance; and had Mr. Manby been a kind brother, he might have been spared his blushes for Webster's ignorance; indeed the farmer is a shrewd, sensible fellow; his errors are those of education, and he gave the banker some very severe cuts: he is to accompany Mr. and Mrs. Manby into Portman-square to-morrow."

"Surely Cecil need not have carried his politeness such lengths; nor can I suppose

that

that Manby was gratified by what I deem an excess of condescension."

"I do not believe Cecil sought to gratify his feelings by his politeness towards the farmer, but rather to mortify him, for having suffered so near a relation to labour for his bread, while he had it so amply in his power to have brought him forward in the world."

"Manby is and always was a strange character, an odd compound of pride, parsimony, and ill-timed liberality; had he suffered Cecil to have remained dependent upon my will, he should never have belonged to the four-in-hand club, which I abominate, though many of his superiors, in point of rank and fortune, are among its members; hitherto he has been very fortunate in his betting; but he may experience a reverse of luck; the knowing ones may only be lying in wait for the novice: however, if he never rattles a dice-box, nor is drawn in to play deep at cards, I shall hope he will never become an absolute gambler:

would to Heaven he were well married! I am surprised Manby does not wish to see him settled, as I know he dreads my title centering in you, or your descendants. I have sometimes hinted my wishes to Clairville; but he does not seem to relish the idea of parting with his liberty; and he constantly puts me off, by observing, that the family honours will not be extinct, should he never marry. Indeed he has ever been the most affectionate of brothers, and I hope you will be able to keep him out of harm's way, as he is exceeding partial to your company; therefore I trust that, though so much his junior, your example will be of singular service to him. Are you engaged to meet these Websters in Portman-square?"

"I am, sir; I did not chuse to put a negative upon Cecil's wish that I should join the party, whom, he makes no doubt, will afford him infinite amusement; none of his other friends are to be present."

"I rejoice to hear it; I make no doubt of

of Cecil's deriving an infinite fund of entertainment from these said relatives; he is a true *bon vivant,* therefore, I dare say, he will make them all tipsy, and then he will learn the whole family history. I am really half inclined to compassionate Mr. Manby, who had, doubtless, hoped and intended to keep these Websters in the background; however, since it is the fashion for nobles to assume the manners and dress of coachmen, and to be upon intimate terms with such gentry, I dare say Webster's conversation will be to the full as instructive as *Hell-fire Dick's,* or the present champion of England's. But I heard a carriage stop—'tis Cecil's, I dare say;" and in another minute the gay-hearted young peer entered the room, exclaiming—

"Have you told the earl, Godfrey, how we were entertained at my grandfather's? Oh, how I wish you had been there, sir! never was the poor old gentleman so perplexed and provoked; the fashionable slang words are a passport to his favour; but

but the shrewd cutting country slang terms of Webster gall him to the very soul. I do expect we shall be rarely entertained to-morrow."

"In quizzing and tormenting your grandfather—a very laudable mode of beguiling your time."

"Nay, now does not he deserve to be a little punished, for having so cruelly neglected the only son of his only sister? since I do believe that I shall love Godfrey's children, when we have any, better than my own: but, joking apart, I really wish to be rather more *au fait* respecting my maternal ancestors."

"That you may quarter their arms with the Monmouths. However, take care you do not seriously offend Mr. Manby, by noticing these rustics, since that would be a very ungrateful return for the regard and indulgence he has ever displayed towards your follies and caprices: but that knock, I dare say, announces the arrival of Mr. Melbourne, so let us drop the subject."

Lionel

Lionel made his appearance almost immediately, and was followed by the countess and lady Frances, to whom lord Angus introduced him as his best friend; adding —"I shall not dwell upon his having saved my life at the risk of his own, as he does not seem to think there was any merit in having preserved such a useless being."

The earl and countess made every suitable acknowledgment to the young cornet, who certainly appeared very averse to listening to his own praises.—"He had been at the war-office," he said, "and, thanks to the strong recommendation of lord Angus, he hoped to mount, at least, another step on the military ladder."

The recent campaign was next discussed; and every one present joined in wishing that the French might be finally obliged to evacuate the peninsula.

Lionel added greatly to the hilarity of the party during dinner, he related so many ludicrous anecdotes respecting their retreat, acknowledging that some tragical adventures

adventures often intervened; but he always endeavoured to fortify his mind with Pope's assertion, and to believe, even when the consequences most militated against his feelings, that "whatever is, is right."

"Else I should be tempted to wonder why Buonaparte has been so long suffered to tyrannize over Europe," rejoined the earl. "You do not mean to make any stay in town at present, Mr. Melbourne, my sons tell me."

"I do not, my lord! My mother's brother, who did me the favour to give me his name at the font, is very ill at his seat in Essex; and as he has of late years talked of making me his heir, it is my duty to hasten to the relief of my mother and sister, who have been nursing him for the last month. My elder brother was once his avowed favourite; but as he is not very steady in his attachments, he now declares in my favour; and as I have very seldom been his inmate, he may entertain a much higher opinion of me than I deserve; indeed I sincerely

sincerely wish he may recover; for though we have never been upon very intimate terms, he has been very kind to me and the young sailor. He once expressed a wish that I would resign my commission, and become his inmate; but I did not like to become an absolute dependent upon any man's bounty; as a single man, I felt that I could make shift to exist upon my pay; and I will never marry, till I can maintain a wife, rather better than some officers whom I could mention."

The earl applauded his prudence; and even Cecil agreed that love could not provide for all the wants of its votaries.

"And what is worse," rejoined lord Monmouth, "love is apt to take wing from the beautiful Utopian cottages, which the imagination of a youthful pair has built for their reception; yet I would always advise young people of either sex to recollect, that when prudence restrains its ardour, 'Love is heaven, and heaven is love.'"

"Most

"Most true, my dear father!" exclaimed Godfrey; "and love must form the chains, by which I am ever shackled."

"I dare say I shall make the more prudent choice," said Cecil, "since Mr. Manby thinks Plutus a more cheering guest at weddings than the blind god; and as I have entered my four-and-twentieth year, without having been wounded even by one of his random arrows, I shall merely marry for fashion sake; and after a ten years union, I may chance to be as happy as my dear romantic brother: but Spain is the region of romance."

"So say its poets and historians; but Buonaparte's satellites have frightened away all the Cupids who hovered over the fair Iberians; and though I went thither prepared to surrender my liberty at discretion to some fair donna, I have returned heart-whole, and do not feel inclined to engraft the daughter of any proud hidalgo into our family."

"Fortunately we had no time allowed

us to *filer le parfait amour,*" said Lionel; "therefore we galloped past all the Iberian dulcineas, else, I dare say, we should have studied the guitar, and have become real Celadons."

Lady Frances was sorry when the countess chose to leave the gentlemen to themselves, as she saw much to admire in Melbourne, and could have wished Fortune had proved more kind to him; and she rejoiced to hear him promise, when he took his leave, to be a frequent visitor in Berkeley-square. Some other company dropped in in the evening; it was therefore past twelve before Cecil wished the family-party good-night, after requesting Godfrey would look in upon him after breakfast; and stipulating that he should sleep at his house the next night, as he meant to keep it up, as long as the farmer could hold his glass.

Godfrey made no objection to his proposal; and the earl rather rejoiced it had been made, as he conceived that his presence

sence would be a great check both upon Cecil and his vulgar guests, who would probably stand in more awe of the lord to whom they could not claim a relationship, than of him with whom they were in a manner connected.

CHAP. XII.

SEVERAL of his brother-officers having called upon Godfrey the next morning, it was past two o'clock before he made his appearance in Portman-square; he therefore hardly expected to find his brother at home, as he generally took a ride or a drive, when the weather was at all favourable for such exercise; if, however, he had waited for him to accompany him, he made no

no doubt of being rated for his laziness, as Cecil was rather an early riser, considering the fashionable hours he kept. As he was walking up the side of the square, he saw a carriage drive from his brother's door; but as it took the contrary way, and he was not near enough to distinguish the arms, he could not tell what visitors he had had at such a comparative early hour, as the long drab great-coat of the footman did not satisfy him respecting the family livery.

Lord Clairville was at home, and alone in the library, he was informed, where he immediately joined him, and found Cecil seated in a musing posture near the fire; but who, rouzing himself upon seeing who was approaching, cried out, in a gay tone —"You were never more welcome, Godfrey, since I have such a budget in store for you, that I should have come in search of you in another half hour, I have so much to tell you."

"I should not have made it so late, if I had

had not been detained by a succession of visitors; and you seem to have had some also, as I saw a carriage drive from your door as I turned down the side of the square."

"Did you see who was in it?"

"No, and I was at too great a distance to distinguish either the arms or livery."

"Then you have been a loser by not making more haste, since it was a lady, with whom I have just parted."

"I think I did very wisely in not interrupting your *tête-à-tête*. May I inquire by whom you were thus favoured? though I do not think the fair dame was a very welcome guest, since I never saw you look so serious: has any thing unpleasant occurred?"

"I hardly know how to answer your question, since I have never yet thought matrimony a very pleasant topic; but remember, no soul but yourself, or, perhaps, my father, must, as yet, know that I have had a proposal tending to that end."

"You know you may depend upon my discretion;

discretion: but surely the lady did not make such a proposal in *propria personæ?*"

"If any woman had been so forward, I should not have taken much time to r[illegible]t what answer I should make her."

"Then who did undertake to do the honours of her virgin modesty? though if she was privy to her friend's design, I think she might as well have addressed you in the first person."

"So do I; but my late guest assured me she was not even aware that she had guessed the state of her heart; but I ought to tell you, that she also spoke loudly in your praise; and I should not wonder, when she has matched me, if she does not save you the trouble of looking out for a partner for life."

"Who can this officious lady be? I have so few female acquaintance, that I never was more at a loss."

"I have half a mind to make you guess; but I will not torment you—prepare for

one of my most agreeable surprises: I know I may trust even a lady's secrets in your keeping, therefore I shall not scruple to tell you that she was *my grandmother*."

Godfrey's disappointment was so legibly expressed upon his speaking countenance, that Cecil gave way to a burst of laughter.

"How you delight in quizzing me! since, I suppose, Mrs. Manby merely called to put off the dinner-party."

"I dare say she never remembered that she had promised to meet the Websters, since, upon my honour, she came to propose a wife to me; therefore I might well look unusually serious when you entered."

"Agreed; but were not you rather in expectation of such a design upon your liberty being declared?"

"Positively no; though, if I may credit the old lady, a very fine girl, a city belle, is actually dying for *mes beaux yeux;* and if I do not take pity on her, she may depart in peace, *and the worms may eat her.*"

"I wish

"I wish you could be as serious as such a subject seems to require."

"Well then, to be very honest, I never was more perplexed, since I did not intend to marry on this side of thirty; although my grandfather, and even my father, has often hinted that I am the eldest son, and that to me they look forward for an heir to the Monmouth title: hitherto I have always understood that Mr. Manby wished me to ally myself to some woman of superior rank to my own; but he is so anxious to see me paired, that he is now as earnest to bring the match in question to bear, as my worthy grandmother (though from very different motives) agrees she is. Your return, and the lady's declining state of health, induced her to seize the first opportunity to assail my feelings in her behalf; and I must do her the justice to say, that, independent of the lady's supposed regard for me, she could not have selected a more suitable helpmate for your mad-brained brother. However, perhaps she

may die before we bring matters to a crisis, and then there will be an end of the matter, as she is positively very ill. For some time no one suspected that love was her complaint; but at last, it seems, her sister discovered that

> Pour mes beaux yeux son coeur grille,
> Et se consume comme une flambeau;

and yet I am told that were she to know I had been rendered thus wise, that would suffice to kill her outright; so she is certainly in great danger, since if I do not speedily bow at her shrine, 'off she goes;' and if I do not take pity on her, I must play the hypocrite, and feign a regard I never felt, or else I shall make bad worse. But to be serious, I have seen her several times at Woodford, and I have danced with her at two city balls, and have often met her at private parties, where I may have talked nonsense to her, I do not deny; but positively a man ought to keep a very strict guard upon his tongue, for some girls

girls are such tinder, a mere random spark suffices to set them in a blaze; for I declare I neither am, nor ever intended to be in love with this *dying swan*; though I agree she is very handsome, and report says she is highly accomplished."

"And you do not dislike her," interrupted Godfrey; "of course her family and connexions are highly respectable, and I presume she is not deficient in worldly goods, since Mr. Manby wishes you to take pity on her; so tell me who she is?"

"She is the second daughter of sir Charles Mildmay, one of the city members, and a merchant of great respectability. His eldest daughter (he has but these two children) married, about eighteen months since, a country gentleman of large fortune, and of a very ancient family. I almost wish it had been her who had taken a fancy to the cut of my phiz, as she has much the most life and spirit; whereas Elinor Mildmay is a sweet gentle soul, and has let love strangely get the better of her prudence: their

 mother

mother has been dead some years; and Elinor, before her wandering heart robbed her cheeks of their bloom, did the honours of sir Charles's house, with a very good grace. I am assured that sir Charles will be highly flattered by an alliance with our family; and I dare believe he cannot object to any branch of the Monmouths; nor should I be ashamed of such a connexion. When rich merchants daughters have received a good education, they generally make better wives than many lady Franceses, Carolines, &c. who are but too often sadly neglected by their parents. Our sister is an exception; and our daughters will, I hope, be equally well brought up; so you perceive I am looking into futurity; though I must be speedy in my decision, if I do intend to commence benedict, as Miss Mildmay is actually confined to her dressing-room, if not to her bed; and it is supposed that a visit from me will be more efficacious than the prescriptions of two of our most celebrated physicians. Mrs. Manby

Manby pleads her cause very earnestly. Lady Mildmay was a descendant from one of the first families in Wales; and sir Charles is the third baronet in a direct line from his great-grandfather; and I also know that few mens character stands higher upon 'Change; he is also a very good orator, and a very popular member of the senate. He is, of course, a man of large property; he gave Mrs. Nesbitt, his eldest daughter, fifty thousand pounds on her marriage, and pledged his word to leave her as much more when he died, as it is not very likely that he should figure in the gazette ere then. Mr. Nesbitt generally resides at his own seat in Gloucestershire; the rent-roll of his estates is very large; and he is as much respected in his own neighbourhood, as sir Charles is within the bills of mortality. My grandmother has dwelled upon these facts, you may presume; though she agreed I must be allowed time before I could decide how I ought to act in consequence of her communications, taking care

nevertheless to assure me, that Elinor Mildmay was in too precarious a state to be trifled with: so now tell me candidly how would you act if you were in similar circumstances? only remember I neither am, nor never shall be, in love with Miss Mildmay; though I have no absolute objection to the match; and esteem may be a better foundation than love to ensure felicity in the married state."

"Upon my honour, Cecil, I am at a loss how to answer your very simple question, as I have quite as little romance in my disposition, as there seems to be in yours. Suppose you admit my father into our council; you know how candid he is in his judgments, and how deeply interested he feels in all that materially concerns his childrens' happiness. He married for love both times; yet I have often heard him say that esteem is an excellent substitute; and pity, you know, is first cousin to the tender passion; rank or family is of much less consequence to a man of rank, as he

raises

raises his wife to his own level; and an alliance with a daughter of a man so much respected as sir Charles Mildmay, must confer honour upon any man: no doubt his children have received an excellent education, and seem very likely to make excellent wives. I may be fastidious, because you are so nearly concerned in the business, therefore I may not be an unprejudiced judge; but I own I could have wished Miss Mildmay had been less susceptible; though what I disapprove, others may deem a merit: at all events, such love must, I should suppose, ensure your joint felicity; and possibly her doubts and fears may have arisen from your fashionable propensities, as she may fancy that you prize your liberty too highly, to place it at the mercy of any woman; at all events, she is greatly to be pitied, and strength of mind may not be the most desirable quality in a wife."

"Oh, I had rather marry a truly feminine woman, than one of your dashers,

 who

who would seize the reins, and drive me to the d-v-l in a tangent: yet I fear Elinor Mildmay is too passive, too gentle; but she may mend of those faults; yet I do not like the thoughts of marrying so early; nor do I wish to have the poor girl's *grimly ghost* glide up to my bedside, to reproach me with having broken her heart; but surely she does not mean to die, if I should prove obdurate; however, that I may not have any thing upon my conscience, I should wish, in an affair of such importance, to be solely guided by my father's wishes: I know he has my welfare even more at heart than ever Mr. Manby had; he is acquainted with sir Charles Mildmay by reputation; and you may repeat to him all that has past between us, since I had rather you, Godfrey, would break the matter to him; you will reason more coolly upon the subject; and I know he will not be actuated, as my grandfather generally is, by either pique or prejudice; therefore

assure

assure him that he shall decide my fate, else I would not insult him by asking his advice."

"Why you seem to have caught the fair Elinor's disorder, Cecil, since I am sure you cannot be afraid of entering upon the subject to our father, who will be much flattered by such a mark of your deference and regard; however, if you really are averse to relating the havoc you have committed, I will request a private audience of the earl, and become your ambassador."

"Then heigh, presto, be gone, for I cannot bear suspense; indeed I shall be incapable of attending even to the most serious business, till my fate is decided; so request my father will pronounce my doom, as we must suppose, that should I turn physician, her malady will vanish, at least so says grandmama; but pray assure the earl, that though I certainly feel a great degree of pity for the young lady, I am in no danger of following her to the grave, should he object to the alliance. Mr. and Mrs. Man-

by

by will be here early, in hopes I shall have decided how to act; and I do not wish they should remain a moment longer in suspense than needs must."

"I will see what can be done to set your mind at ease," replied lord Angus, taking up his hat and gloves; "but remember my return is uncertain, since the earl may not be at home, or may be engaged; though if I give him to understand the nature of my communication, I am sure he will dismiss even his most intimate friend. Shall you remain at home till I return?"

"I would not venture to mount the box while my thoughts are thus engaged; besides, I dare say you will not be long, and I might be only prolonging my present unenviable state of mind. I think I will study Ovid during your absence, that I may be able to write a declaration, like Paris when he addressed Helen; but adieu—I will not detain you to listen to my nonsense."

Godfrey instantly departed. The earl was in his study, settling some accounts

with

with his house-steward; but he no sooner understood that his son had something of a private nature to communicate, than the accounts were closed, and Miller was dismissed, with orders to return when he rang. Lord Angus instantly and briefly related every word that had passed between him and his brother, dwelling, with proud affection, upon his wish to have his fate finally decided by his lordship's wishes.

The earl listened with serious attention; then declared—" That he could not suggest any reasonable objection to the proposed match. Sir Charles Mildmay bore a most excellent character; he had seen both his daughters at court during his mayoralty, and had thought them very fine women, particularly the youngest; he was also slightly acquainted with Mr. Nesbitt, who meant, he had been informed, to offer himself as member for *** at the next dissolution; therefore Cecil would certainly not disgrace his family or connexions by marrying into such a family; and an affectionate

tionate wife, who is not partial to the modern assumptions, may render him every thing I could wish," he continued, " and wean him from all his idle pursuits: yet I do not suppose the fair damsel will, Sapho-like, ' cease to live ere she will cease to love;' though some young women suffer their hearts to lead them strange lengths; and I have known instances of their dying for love, or vexation, at their affection not being returned. I always supposed Mr. Manby would select a bride for him; and as Mrs. Manby approves his choice, I am convinced the lady is very deserving; therefore tell him the proposal has my full approbation, that I feel much obliged by his having appealed so entirely to my judgment, and that I shall be very happy to receive Miss Mildmay as his bride-elect. With respect to settlements and money matters, I shall be ready at any time to meet sir Charles and Mr. Manby, since my private feelings shall never prevent me from doing ample justice to all my children;

but

but I constitute you my deputy, Godfrey, to convey the language and the feelings of my heart to your brother; so don't let us prolong his uneasy state of suspense."

Lord Angus hastily retraced his steps. Cecil met him at the library-door, declaring Mercury himself could not have been more diligent. Godfrey, without noticing the compliment, related what the earl had said, in return for the communication, doing ample justice to his affectionate regard for Cecil.

"I know he is, and ever has been, the best of fathers; therefore, as he approves of the match, the die is cast; yet I hardly know how to make up my mind to be thus, as it were, duped into matrimony by a love-sick damsel; however, I will see the young gipsey to-morrow; and if I fancy there is any sham or affectation in her illness, I will not play the fool."

"At all events, you do not mean, I presume, to tender yourself point blank to her acceptance, admitting she is as ill as Mrs.

Manby

Manby represents her to be? though I believe some men have been induced to dispose of their liberty, merely in hopes of soon being a widower."

"I shall not follow their example; for if I thought she meant to depart in peace very speedily, I would not marry her, even to secure to myself the possession of a million; and, after all, I think it very probable we shall never come together: however, as my father has pronounced my doom, I consider myself, in some respects, out of suspense. But you will not return into Berkeley-square to dress, as you sleep here; let me send for your valet: I only wish you would become my inmate, till I do marry."

"You are very kind; but my mother might fancy I slighted her, as I am, of necessity, compelled to spend much of my time at a distance from her; therefore I ought to devote a part of that I can spare from the duties of my profession to her comfort; and as it is not much past five,

with

with your leave, I will adorn in Berkeley-square: you will wish to have a little private conversation with Mr. and Mrs. Manby. I will not make it later than seven before I return; therefore, once more, adieu. I wish we could send Miss Mildmay the lover's staff to support her, till her sultan shall deign to notice her."

"I only wish the poor girl had seen me with no more partial eyes than I have hitherto beheld her. Do not make it late, Godfrey. I am glad this strange party are coming to-day; they will turn my thoughts into another channel; and I was not formed in the mould of a Celadon. Shall my chariot take you home?"

"By no means; I prefer walking—*au revoir.*"

Lord Clairville went to his toilet as soon as his brother left him; and had scarcely completed dressing, when he was informed Mr. and Mrs. Manby were arrived.

CHAP.

CHAP. XIII.

He hastened to join them; and after the usual welcomes, perceiving that neither of them chose to start the subject nearest their heart, unwilling to keep them in suspense respecting his determination, he seized his grandfather's hand, pressing it very cordially, while he said—" I have actually devoted nearly every moment since my grandmother left me to reflection, though I seldom devote much time to such improving occupation; but the result of the scrutiny I have made into the state of my heart has been, I dare believe, favourable to your wishes, since, though I cannot declare myself to be in love with Miss Mildmay,

may, yet as I have seen much to admire in her heretofore, and must feel flattered by the strong predilection she has evinced in my favour, I shall certainly make her an offer of my hand; my heart will, I dare say, follow the lead; therefore I make no doubt we shall be a very happy couple."

The banker, who had long wished to see his dear Cecil settled, and in a fair way to be a father, was so delighted by this rather unexpected concession, as he had feared that Miss Mildmay's being, in a manner, offered to his acceptance, might have prevented him from closing with the proposal, that he actually shed tears of joy, and called his beloved grandson the sole delight and support of his declining years; assuring him, that he should never have reason to repent having so readily acceded to his and Mrs. Manby's wishes, in respect to this alliance.

Mrs. Manby was no less gratified, as she now looked forward with hope to the seeing him happily married before she died,

and

and to a woman who would not object to accompanying him to Woodford, which some noblemens' daughters might have done, and thus have estranged him from them.

"True, Mrs. Manby; and I should not, old as I am, have relished being quizzed, as they term it, by some high-bred dame of quality, like your mother-in-law, for example, Cecil, who has, I dare say, prevented your father from being upon intimate terms with us."

"You greatly wrong lady Monmouth by such a supposition, sir, since I dare aver that a hint of my father's would induce her even to visit your relatives, the Websters. No women can be more free from the silly pride of rank than the countess and my sister; and I dare say when Fanny marries, she will not select a husband merely for his rank."

"I did not mean to hurt your feelings, my dear Cecil. I am very glad the countess behaves so well to you, as to induce

you

you thus to stand forth in her defence. Did you mention to the earl your having invited the vulgar crew who are to dine here?"

"I did, sir; and as they were your relations, he saw nothing extraordinary in my having done so; indeed, he is as free from pride as the countess; and frequently sits down in the country with his tenants: I did not ask him to meet the party. My brother has promised me his company."

"He is really much too condescending, as well as yourself. However, I hope this will be the first and the last time these people ever darken your doors;" relating what he had already done, and meant finally to do for Tom, merely for the sake of getting entirely rid of him, as he knew his obstinate being of a father had resolved to leave him in town, where he must have been a disgrace to him, let him have engaged in any, nay the most decent pursuit —"Thank Heaven," he continued, as Cecil did not, as he had hoped, express his approbation

approbation of his measures, "they are all delighted at the idea of the boy becoming a nabob; and if he does his duty, and is steady and diligent, he may do very well; though he will not, I am well convinced, astonish all Northumberland by his greatness, should he ever return: I shall, however, have more than done my duty by the unlicked cub, since I never received even a basket of poultry or game from his grandfather. Bolton proved a most able auxiliary; indeed, I believe he was as anxious as I could be to remove his relative from London. I sent one of my clerks to accompany them to make the necessary purchases this morning; and I desired him to remind them that you did not dine till seven; therefore they were not required to make their appearance in the square more than ten minutes before the time, as I wished to have a long chat with you before they broke in upon us. I shall see sir Charles Mildmay to-morrow morning."

"Pray recollect, Mr. Manby," said his wife,

wife, "that great caution and delicacy are requisite in the management of this business: you must not attempt to bargain with the baronet, as for a share in the loan or the lottery; he does not yet know what has occasioned his daughter's illness; and he is a man of very nice feelings, and rather fastidious in his notions respecting our sex; and I can assure you, my dear Cecil, that though Miss Mildmay has suffered her regard for you to prey upon her feelings, 'she will not unsought be won:' my cautions, therefore, extend to you, as well as to Mr. Manby, since, were you to be too precipitate, she might, by way of preventing you from guessing the secret of her heart, reject your hand. Her medical attendants were the first who hinted that her disorder was upon her mind. Mrs. Nesbitt was in consequence sent for, in hopes that she would be able to discover in what her malady originated; and by dint of questioning her attendant, and remarking every word that escaped her sister, she

soon guessed that unrequited love was her complaint; and as she thought I was more likely to afford her assistance, and to advise her how to proceed, than sir Charles, who might have felt hurt at the discovery she had made, she waited upon me, and in strict confidence revealed her suspicions, which she acknowledged amounted to certainty. I readily undertook to sound your disposition towards her sister, assuring her, that I believed your affections were disengaged, though I had always heard you speak very highly of Miss Mildmay; and as I thought she was an excellent match for you, after consulting with Mr. Manby, I endeavoured to excite your pity for the sweet girl, 'who has never told her love,' remember, and whose father is as yet in ignorance of the theft you have committed; therefore you must begin by polite inquiries after her health; this may lead to an immediate interview, as you are rather upon intimate terms; and if once she fancies you are seriously interested in her recovery,

covery, I dare say the physicians may cease their visits."

"Thank you, my dear madam, for this candid statement. I am glad the dear girl is anxious to preserve her secret; true love is always silent; so pray, my dear grandfather, suffer me to break the ice before you have any conversation with sir Charles; I will do my best to endeavour to avoid wounding the young lady's feelings." The entrance of a servant, who announced Mr. Webster, and Mr. and Mrs. Bolton, prevented his lordship from receiving any reply.

The farmer, who had purchased a new ready-made suit to pay this grand visit, entered the truly superb apartment with very becoming diffidence. The bride and bridegroom, who were both very well dressed, followed him in, while Thomas stood just within the door, lost in wonder and amaze.

Cecil advanced to welcome them, which he did with the most kind familiarity, ta-

king the farmer's hand, and assuring him he was very glad to see him, and requesting him and his party would be seated. Tom seemed almost afraid, though, like his father, he was adorned in a quite new suit, to make use of such elegant chairs; but the farmer, who was seldom dashed, he would have said, for any length of time, and whose spirits were greatly exhilarated by the kind reception he had met with, called out—" I don't wonder, boy, you are afraid to sit down upon these nice soft cushions; in time you may also receive your friends in such a room, that is, when you come home a nabob." This turned the conversation upon Thomas's approaching departure, and led to an enumeration of the various purchases which had been made for him, when the stopping of a carriage, and a thundering knock, almost electrified the farmer, who declared—" The London doors ought to be brave and strong to stand the raps they received."

Lord Angus was announced, and instantly

stantly made his appearance; and though very plainly dressed, he seemed to strike the visitors with much greater awe than their entertainer; but his kind inquiries, and the notice he took of each, soon set them quite at ease; and before they had resumed their seats, dinner was announced.

"Thank God," cried the farmer, "my stomach has been crying cupboard for some hours; but I was resolved not to spoil my appetite."

"I ought to have reflected, Mr. Webster," said Cecil, "that you are not accustomed to these fashionable hours."

"Oh faith, my lord, mine is a very convenient appetite; I can eat and drink at any hour. I am most qualmish of a morning; I am apt to be troubled with a cough when I first get up; but if I take a glass of rum and milk as soon as I wake, it often puts it by; but I don't make much hand at eating, till about eleven; then I can eat a steak or a chop, and wash it down with a pint of good ale, and that carries me on

 till

till two; and as I always smoke a pipe or two after dinner to relish my rum and water, I don't care about any other meal."

"And yet, father," said Tom, with a knowing grin, "you have no objection to a good supper, if it falls in your way."

"True, boy; but I can do very well without it. Do I care about eating, Bolton, after I have made a hearty dinner?"

"I dare say you do not, sir; but when I was in Northumberland, you made me make so many meals, under the name of snaps, whets, and luncheons, that I hardly ever enjoyed either my dinner or my supper; and if I called upon half a score people in the course of the day, I was obliged to eat and drink at every house."

Having reached the eating-room during this speech, Mrs. Manby, at her grandson's request, took her seat at the head of the table. Godfrey being appointed, by the founder of the feast, her assistant, and grace being said, Mrs. Manby asked the farmer if he chose any vermicelli soup?

"I hardly

"I hardly know," was the reply. "That was deuced good stuff you gave us yesterday, uncle; if this is like that, I do not care if I do taste it;" and upon a plate being set before him, he agreed "it was very good lap."

"Were you thinking of your farm-yard, when you made that remark?" asked the angry Mr. Manby, who sat upon thorns while the servants were present, since, owing to the farmer's absurd remarks, they with difficulty stifled their mirth; nor were the brothers less amused, as the banker's pettishness heightened the scene. But the cloth being removed, the farmer declared —"He was as full as a tick."

Lord Clairville pushed the bottles about very briskly, observing—"That good wine facilitated the digestion; and he could carry two or three bottles to his own share."

"Oh ho, my lord! what, are you good at that?" said Webster. "Well, though I b'ant very fond of drinking, I have laid many a boaster under the table in my time; but

but I must confess I never enjoy my bottle so well as when I have my pipe."

"I hope you don't expect to enjoy your favourite amusement of smoking in such a house as this?" said the irritated banker.

"Lord love you, uncle, it never entered my head. I hope no offence, my lord; I merely said I relished my wine the better for a pipe."

"I dare say you do, Mr. Webster; and by-and-bye I mean to join you in a pipe, for I can smoke as well as drink. My grandfather will, I know, join us, though he does not make a practice of smoking; and my brother was telling me yesterday, that, during his late campaign, he often smoked segars, to avoid taking cold, when exposed to the night air."

"Why then, my lord, there are three out of the five; and I will be answerable for the other two: Tom is a chip of the old block; the boy took to smoking before he was thirteen."

This point being settled, very much to the

the farmer's satisfaction, his lordship gave several very apropos toasts, which his guests drank with avidity; and soon after Mrs. Manby had retired with the bride, lord Clairville proposed their adjourning into a room, which he had ordered to be prepared for this smoking-party, well knowing that the banker enjoyed a pipe, in which he generally indulged when alone at Woodford; and as the old gentleman presumed that his grandson particularly wished to oblige him, he was highly flattered, by what he censured to lord Angus as excess of complaisance.

Having taken their seats and lit their pipes, lord Angus, who now merely smoked in self-defence, told several gay stories; and entered into some details respecting what he had seen of the Spanish mode of farming, while Cecil plied Webster with several bumpers of very prime Madeira, which he, as well as Godfrey, evaded drinking. Mr. Manby was suffered to help himself; but Bolton and Tom were not al-

lowed to pass the bottles; indeed they required very little pressing to follow the farmer's example, who soon became very mellow; and his host contrived to lead him on to relate the history of his whole family, by affecting the most profound ignorance respecting some early anecdotes in his grandfather's life, which Mrs. Manby had once related to him.

"Well, I am astonished, my lord, that you should never have heard that story before: but I believe uncle seldom talks of Shields. Ah, well, no matter whence we came, or who we were, so long as we are but great and rich men in our old age. I dare say, Tom, when you are an *Ingee* nabob, you will not like to talk of having drove middle-team. However, old Mr. Manby, my grandfather, was a very honest old fellow, and a special sailor; he had but one fault, as I have heard my mother say, that was spoiling his only son: and so here's my service to you, my lord, and wishing we may be better acquainted,"

swallowing

swallowing a full bumper.—"Let me see, what was I saying——?"

"You have been running on with a vast deal of nonsense," interrupted the banker, "which cannot interest this company."

"Surely, my dear sir," rejoined Cecil, "*we* must feel interested in the very just encomiums Mr. Webster has bestowed upon his grandfather."

"Well said, my lord; you are not ashamed of your relationship to as worthy honest a shipmaster as ever broke bread, though my uncle sets you the example. But as I was saying, I was the only child of my late father, and a hopeful chicken you see I am; however, I came into every thing he left behind him; and I am bold to say, that I am a much better man now than I was then, since I was able to give master Bolton there five hundred pounds down upon the nail, for taking one of my girls off my hands. I don't think I told you, uncle, how they came together."

"Yes, yes, you gave me a very prolix

account of the courtship," filling the farmer's glass, and taking up his own—"Come, your pipe is dry," giving him a look, meant to silence him.

The farmer was primed, and no longer afraid of offending his rich uncle—"Faith I believe my pipe is out, as well as dry: with your lordship's leave, I will charge again—I don't think its very late."

"We never think it late in London, sir, till daybreak; so pray fill your pipe."

"Ah, I see you are a hearty blade, my lord; I could keep it up with the best of them, when I was your age; but now, if I sit long after twelve, or make very free, I feel very queer the next morning. This is special good tobacco; and faith I relish good wine."

"Then pray make free with both; you cannot oblige me more."

Having smoked a few whiffs, and drank another glass—"I forgot what I was going to say, when I stopped to fill my pipe."

"You were going to relate to my grandfather

father when and where Mr. Bolton became acquainted with his bride."

"So I was; ecod your lordship has a good memory.—So you must know that that young spark came down to a relation's of his to spend the Christmas; and as we are neighbours, we often visit. Farmer Whitmore has been some few times to London, to see his brother-in-law: old Mr. Bolton, who is also a Northumberland man, married his sister; but this young chap had never been so far north before; indeed he has no time to spare, for he is in partnership with his father, and they have a power of business: but I dare say your lordship has heard of the Messrs. Boltons, who reside in *** court, near Covent Garden."

"I have heard the name, I dare say," replied lord Clairville.

"Oh, they are in a very great line; I had heard so in the country, and I have seen it with my own eyes since I came to town, as I am at their house; and though it

it a'nt to be mentioned in the same day or year with your lordship's, 'tis a very handsome, comfortable residence; and as it is in a nice snug court, I sleep as sound and as quiet as if I was at home.' And old Mr. Bolton is another living proof, that some folks are born with a silver spoon in their mouth, while others may moil and toil for ever, to scrape up a mere competence; for he came up to London with even less money in his pocket than my uncle there—no disparagement to him, say I; he walked up from Newcastle; and he was taken into the very house he now lives in as an errand-boy; but being deuced cute, he soon gained an insight into the business; and as his master was an old man, he gave him great encouragement, made him his shopman, and taught him all he knew; so when the old gentleman tipped off the perch, he very prudently married the widow; and so came into every thing, and stepped, as one may say, into his master's shoes. The widow was in her sixty-third

year

year when he went to church with her; and as good luck would have it, she followed her first spouse to the grave within the twelvemonth; so next time my gentleman pleased his fancy, and came into our parts for a wife, who died about five years ago, leaving an only son, who sits there; and so when he came down amongst us, I guessed he wished for a country wife; and so I told Sue to give a sharp look-out. I don't mind letting the cat out of the bag now, as the gudgeon nibbled at the bait, and a very happy couple I dare say they will be. I did the handsome thing by them; and Bolton will come into his father's business, and all he is worth, when he dies; at present he has only a share, as the old gentleman does not like to give the staff out of his own hands: so now you know all how and about Sue's wedding, my lord; so here is my service to you."

Cecil was not, however, quite satisfied, having perceived that Bolton wished, like

the

the banker, to have checked Webster's loquacity; he therefore said, with well-assumed indifference, addressing the bridegroom—"Are you in the wholesale or the retail line, Mr. Bolton?"

"Oh, in the wholesale, by Jove!" cried the farmer; "for he draws teeth, and puts them to rights, from morning till night. His father, who is a droll chap, calls himself a surgeon barber, as he bleeds and draws teeth, and fills his pockets by wholesale, I will promise you; though he works under those who call themselves dentists. I only wish I had been bred to so lucrative a trade."

"It might have suited you better than farming, nephew; for I never heard any body talk nonsense more frequently than you do; and that is, I believe, peculiar to barbers, whether they add surgeon to their name or not."

This remark afforded the brothers an opportunity to give a free loose to their mirth; and as Mrs. Manby, not chusing to

disturb

disturb the smoking-party, sent f coffee into the room, the conversation took another turn. The farmer declared that tea always did him a power of good, when he had been drinking; but he had no sooner finished his last cup, than he resumed his pipe, though it was near eleven, at which hour Mr. Manby rose to depart. This was looked upon as a signal for the rest of the party; but Cecil requested they would not think of moving; yet Mr. and Mrs. Manby were partial to early hours; therefore he would not attempt to detain them; but he could not think of parting with the rest of his company before midnight.

It required very little persuasion to induce Webster to resume his seat. The banker could have wished he had been suffered to depart; but as he seemed growing rather unintelligible, and was, besides, pot-valiant, he knew he would not readily take a hint; therefore, when the farmer wished to ask him some further questions respect-

ing

... m, he desired him to call in Finsbury-square in the morning; but not to make it later than eleven, as he might possibly return to Woodford with Mrs. Manby.

Godfrey having left the room with his brother to take leave of Mrs. Manby, the farmer filled three goblets with Madeira, saying—"Now, my boys, let us shew our gratitude for our kind reception, by drinking lord Clairville's health in bumpers." The young men dared not refuse; and they gave three-times-three as they concluded.

"What are those noisy beings about?" cried the banker, as he was crossing the hall to his carriage; "for Heaven sake, get rid of them as soon as you can!"

"They are only drinking our healths during our absence," replied the diverted Cecil, "by which they mean to evince their regard and respect for us: but I promise you they shall very soon depart in peace." Mrs. Manby said a few words in a whisper respecting Miss Mildmay to him

as

as he was handing her into her coa[illegible]. He promised to attend to all her instructions; hastening to rejoin his male guests; having provided the bride with a port-folio of caricatures, by way of beguiling the time.

The farmer made no small merit of what they had done, pointing out the glasses, which he protested they had filled to the brim twice, first in honour of lord Clairville, and then to the health of his brother, whose urbanity of manners had been even more flattering to them than their host's.

They politely returned the compliment; but not in half-pint glasses; and Cecil rang for the supper tray. The farmer declared he had no appetite, and wished to have taken his leave; but his host desired him to fill his pipe once more, while he and his brother eat their supper, as both Bolton and Tom declined partaking of the meal.

"Did you mind, my lord, how my old uncle kicked whenever I praised my poor grandfather?

s... ather. God rest his soul! Oh! I cou... have told you some rum stories respecting my rich relation, only I was cautious not to affront him, as he has behaved so handsomely to my son; but, I believe, if the truth was known, it was more out of fear than love; he was afraid I should have exposed him if he had flinched. But he does not know Thomas Webster: I should have scorned to have boasted of the relationship, if he had disowned me. I would readily do any man a good turn; but d—n me if I could ever bear malice; and after all, his money is his own; he has no more right to give it me, than any other man; so here's his health, and God bless him, and all his descendants."

This speech, which evidently came from the heart, rendered Cecil the farmer's staunch friend, and induced him to present Thomas with a bank-note of a hundred pounds, to assist in equipping him for his voyage; he made a similar present to the father, to expend while in London upon

his

his other children; [illegible] ested [illegible] would accept of a third, in addition to what he had already received with his wife.

The farmer was truly grateful for such *solid* marks of his regard; and only wished his lordship would put it in his power to display his gratitude; readily taking charge of Thomas's present, which he promised should be laid out according to the noble donor's intentions. He then amused the brothers with various stories in circulation respecting the banker in Northumberland, who had invariably shrank from all his former acquaintance, none of whom he had ever chosen to recognise in London.

The bride, whose time did not pass so pleasantly, peeped into the room, to tell them the watchmen were going half-past twelve.

"Why then get on your things, Sue, and we will be moving," replied her father.

"Shall my servants procure you a hackney-coach?" asked Cecil.

ould [illegible] wed up in a coach fo[illegible]y money, my lord; the night is very fine, and a walk will do us all good." Bolton was of the same opinion; and he would be bound to take them the nearest way home.

"Well, but as it is very cold," resumed their host, "suppose you each take a glass of warm spirits and water, previous to venturing into the air? I have some very famous old rum, a present of my grandfather's—let me prevail upon you to taste it."

"Well, my lord, I never like to be stout, and to refuse a good offer; but mind me, I will not sit down again; while we are standing, we are going; and this will be what we country folks call the stirrup-cup;" and though neither Webster nor the young men could hardly stand upon their legs, they each of them contrived to swallow a parting bumper of this famous rum, which was much above proof; and [illegible]rmer pronounced it to be the best he

had

had ever tasted in hi
wished he had two such bottles of it a
could point out standing in his orchard.

"That is so moderate a wish," said Cecil, "that I think I may venture to offer you half-a-dozen bottles to take down with you."

The farmer looked wise; and Tom stammered out—"I know what father means."

"Then pray explain," rejoined lord Clairville: but as neither he nor his father could now speak very intelligibly, the bride informed him, that a nobleman, who resided in their vicinity, having rebuilt the lodges at the entrance of his park, they now resembled large stone bottles; and it had ever since been one of the farmer's standing jests to wish for two such bottles full of any liquor he liked. At last, however, they departed; and the brothers, after a hearty laugh at their expence, and agreeing that they had been completely surfeited with smoking, retired to rest; Cecil hoping that he should dream of love,

or

[illegible] would inspire him with some very appropriate speeches to entertain his love-sick nymph the next day.

END OF VOL. I.

Lane, Darling, and Co. Leadenhall Street.